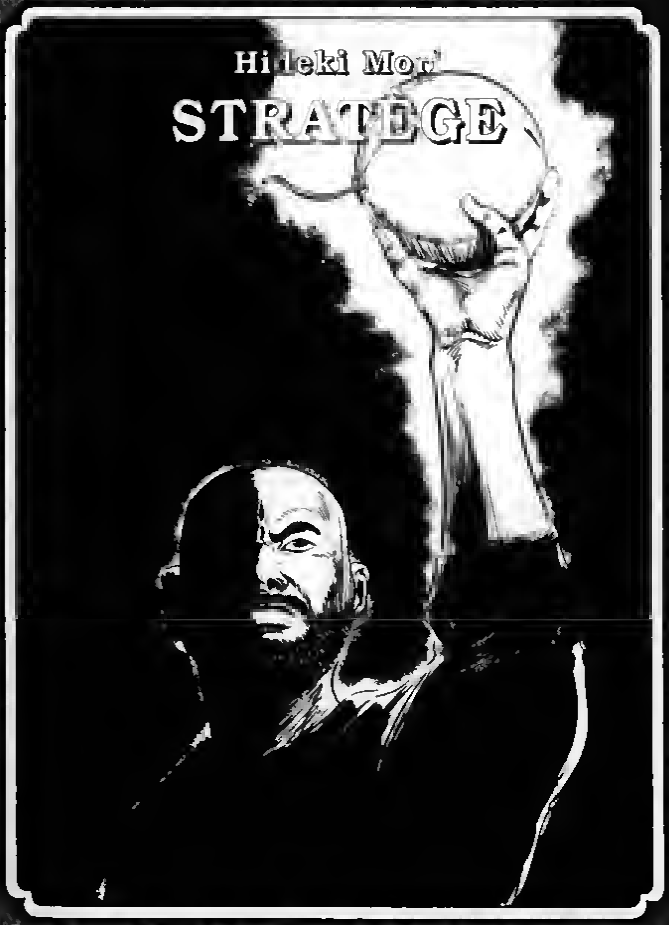
Hideki Mori
STRATEGE

BOKKO 9

THE SECRET WEAPON

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Editors: Gaijii & Zyph - Scanner & Translator: Jon

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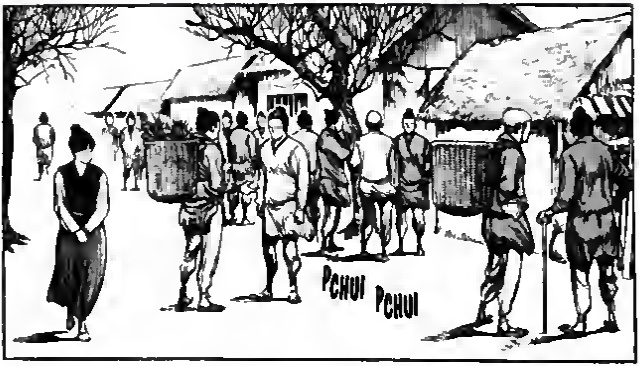
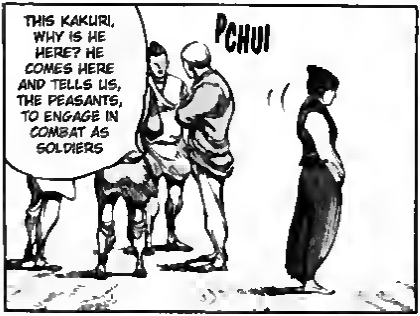
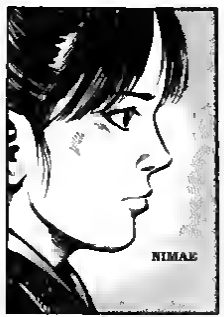
CHAPTER 01
AN EXPLOSIVE SITUATION

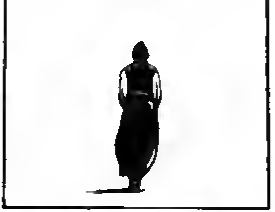

PCHUI PCHUI


THIS KAKURI, WHY IS HE HERE? HE COMES HERE AND TELLS US, THE PEASANTS, TO ENGAGE IN COMBAT AS SOLDIERS
PCHUI

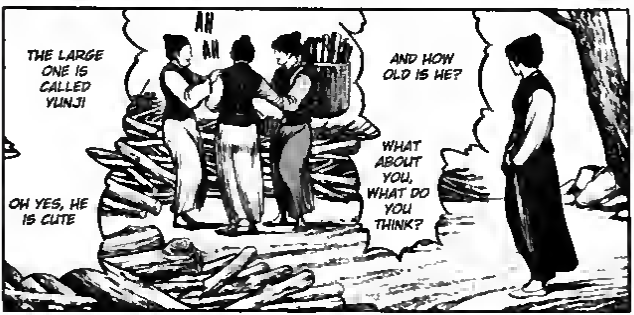

NIMAE

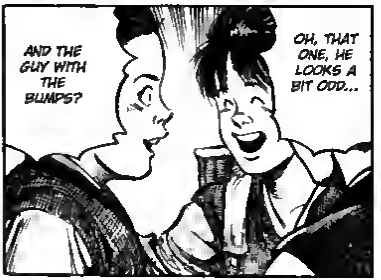
BUT HE ALSO SAYS THAT IF YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL YOU CAN RISE IN RANK AND COMMAND OTHERS
DON'T YOU GET IT? HE WILL EVEN MAKE THE WOMEN FIGHT!

IF THE WOMEN DIE, THEN WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF THE CHILDREN?



OUAH
OUAH


AH
AH
THE LARGE ONE IS CALLED YUNJI
OH YES, HE IS CUTE
AND HOW OLD IS HE?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, WHAT DO YOU THINK?


AND THE GUY WITH THE BUMPS?
OH, THAT ONE, HE LOOKS A BIT ODD...

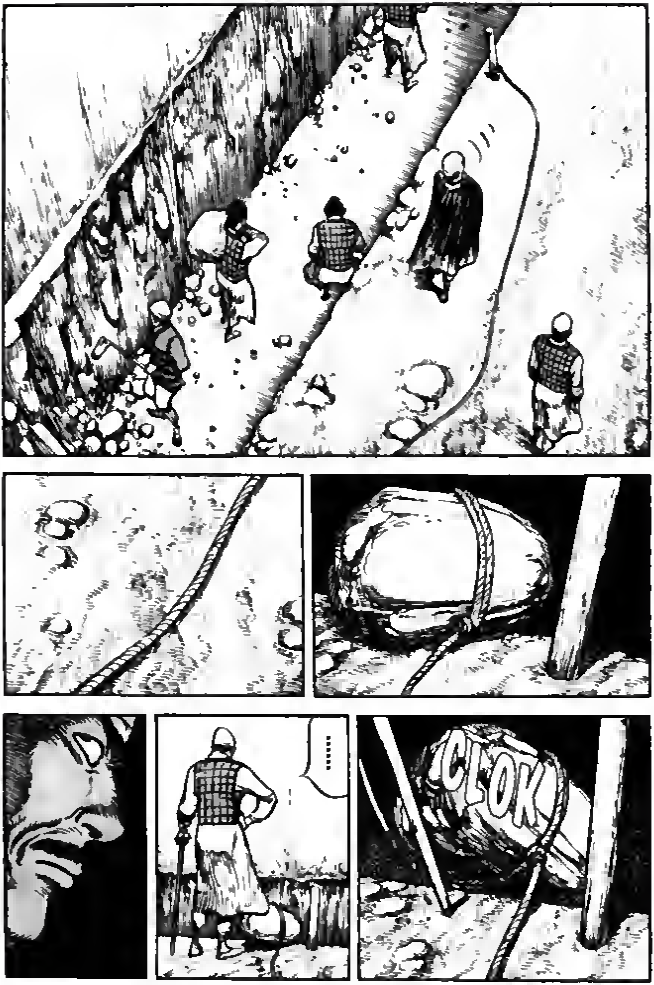
THE POOR WOMEN SEEM HAPPY, THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT THE WAR

THERE IS ALSO ANOTHER YOUNG PERSON WITH THEM..
YOU DON'T KNOW? BUT IT IS A WOMAN
WHAT? ... THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...!
SHE ALWAYS TRIES TO HIDE HERSELF. IT'S QUITE DIFFICULT TO GUESS!
PERHAPS SHE'S REALLY UGLY...
AND MOREOVER, FOR A WOMAN TO WALK AROUND CARRYING WEAPONS,
THAT'S TOO VULGAR!!
HE SHOULD NEVER HAVE PUT THAT MAN OF BOKK IN COMMAND!
BUT DON'T WORRY, HE WILL BE ASSASSINATED, WE'LL MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT!!

HOW ARE THE INHABITANTS DOING?
KOBU
THE SOLDIERS OF TCHO PREPARE TO ASSASSINATE KAKURI, BUT THEY WILL MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT!
HEY, STAY FOCUSED!
PSAH
NIMAE, HOW OLD ARE YOU? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE AROUND EIGHTEEN TO TWENTY YEARS OLD BUT,
YOU COULD EASILY BE AS YOUNG AS FIFTEEN
AND KAKURI THEN, HOW OLD DO YOU THINK HE IS?

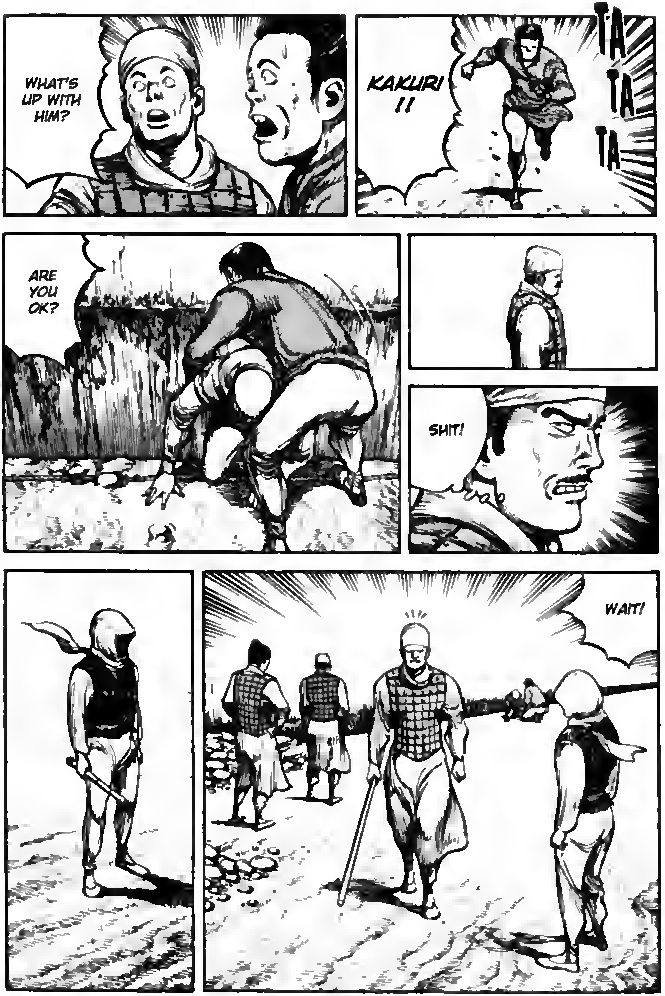
OH, HIM. HE NEVER TALKS ABOUT HIMSELF ...
.....
SO, ARE YOU A BIT INTER-ESTED IN KAKURI?
YES!
HMPH

TSKK
TAP
KAKURI
IS IN
DANGER!!

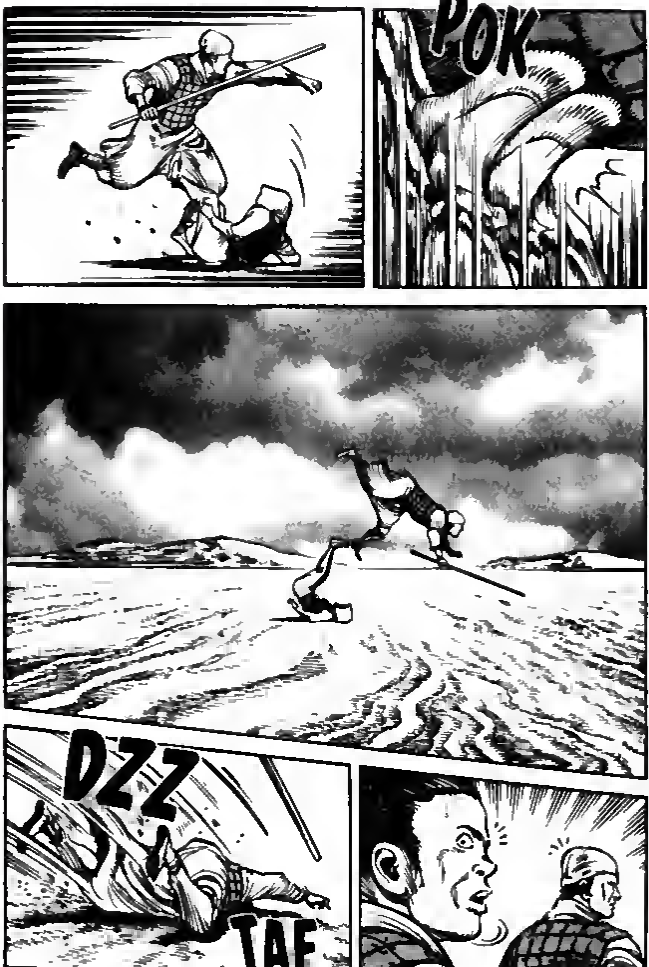

.....
CLOK

SHSH
BING
WAAH !!
SHH
WAH !!

GRRR
HEY, IS SOMETHING WRONG?!?


WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?
KAKURI !!
TA TA TA
ARE YOU OK?
SHIT!
WAIT!

YOU! YOU ARE A COWARD!
WHAT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO DIE!
GRRR
SHSH
SHSH
STUPID BITCH!

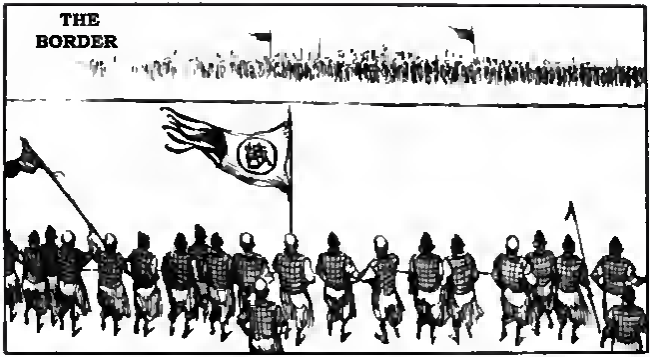

POK
DZZ
TAF

GRRR
I WILL CRUSH YOU LIKE AN INSECT!
DJJJ
DJJJ
DJJJ
DJJJ
TCHAK
OVER THERE, OVER THERE!!
WHAT IS IT?
TAP
TAP
TAP

ALL TOGETHER AGAINST THIS SHIT!
YES, WE WON'T TAKE THIS FROM KAKURI AND HIS HENCHMEN!
WHILE SHANU IS ON THE BORDER, WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE WANT!
THIS IS BAD, THE SITUATION IS EXPLO-SIVE

DZA
DZA
DZA
DZA
!?
PAN
FLOP
PLAF

IDIOT, DO NOT WASTE YOUR TIME, GET BACK TO WORK!
DZA
DZA
GHYA-HAHAH !!
AHA-HAH !
AHA-HAH !
.....


THE BORDER

GENERAL! SHIN'S MAN-POWER DOESN'T SEEM TO CEASE INCREASING!
.....

WE CAN STILL KEEP RESISTING FOR ANOTHER MONTH, BUT NOT MUCH MORE...

I THINK KAKURI WAS TOO HARD ON HER.
HER CHEEK IS ALL SWOLLEN AND RED
HEY LOOK! THERE'S SOME FISHY PEOPLE OUTSIDE!
ASSASSINS?
DZA
DZA
DZA
DZA

WHO GOES THERE?
PEASANTS, WE COME TO DEFEND MISTER KAKURI!
HIH
HUH?
WE TRUST MISTER KAKURI
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'LL DO, BUT WE WANT HIM TO STAY!
MISTER KAKURI, DON'T GIVE UP ON US!!!
LITTLE BY LITTLE, PEOPLE STARTED TO TRUST KAKURI
BUT KAKURI HIMSELF WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT HE'D BE ABLE TO MAKE THE WHOLE CITY TRUST HIM BEFORE THE BORDER WOULD BE BREACHED

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CHAPTER 02

STRANGE INCIDENTS ON THE BORDER

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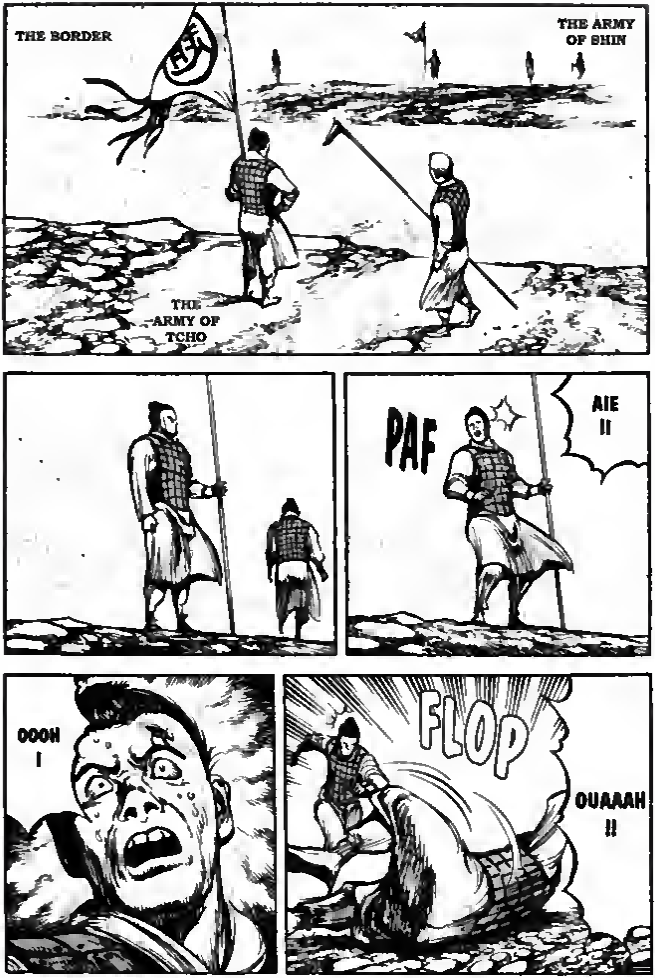
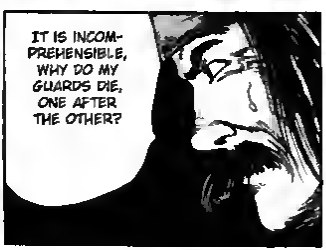
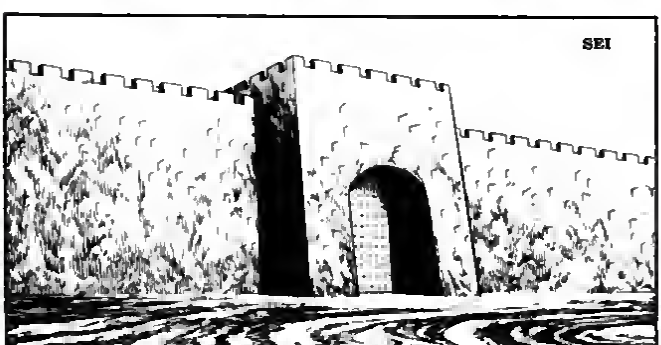

THE BORDER
THE ARMY OF SHIN
THE ARMY OF TCHO
PAF
AIE !!
OOOH !
FLOP
OUAAAH !!

GENERAL! YET ANOTHER ONE WHO DIED WITH THE SAME SMALL WOUND TO THE FOREHEAD
AAH
OUAH
.....
PATA PATA

DEATH IS ALMOST IMMEDIATE, AND HE IS ALREADY THE TENTH TO DIE!


IT IS INCOM-PREHENSIBLE, WHY DO MY GUARDS DIE, ONE AFTER THE OTHER?


SEI

TCHOU
CHOU
TCHOU
CHOU
THESE SOLDIERS OF TCHO, WHAT ARE THEY WHISPERING ABOUT?
THEY SEEM TO BE SCARED OF SOMETHING!
DZA
DZA

I KNOW WHAT IT IS
IT'S THE STRANGE INCIDENTS OCCURING ON THE BORDER
STRANGE INCI-DENTS??
SOLDIERS OF TCHO'S ARMY ARE DYING ONE AFTER ANOTHER IN A MYSTERI-OUS WAY
I HAVEN'T GOT ANY PRECISE INFORMA-TION, BUT THE MEN OF THE CITY SEEM TO BE VERY FRIGHTENED
.....
BY NIGHTFALL THEY BROUGHT ONE OF THE MYSTERIOUS CORPSES TO THE CITY

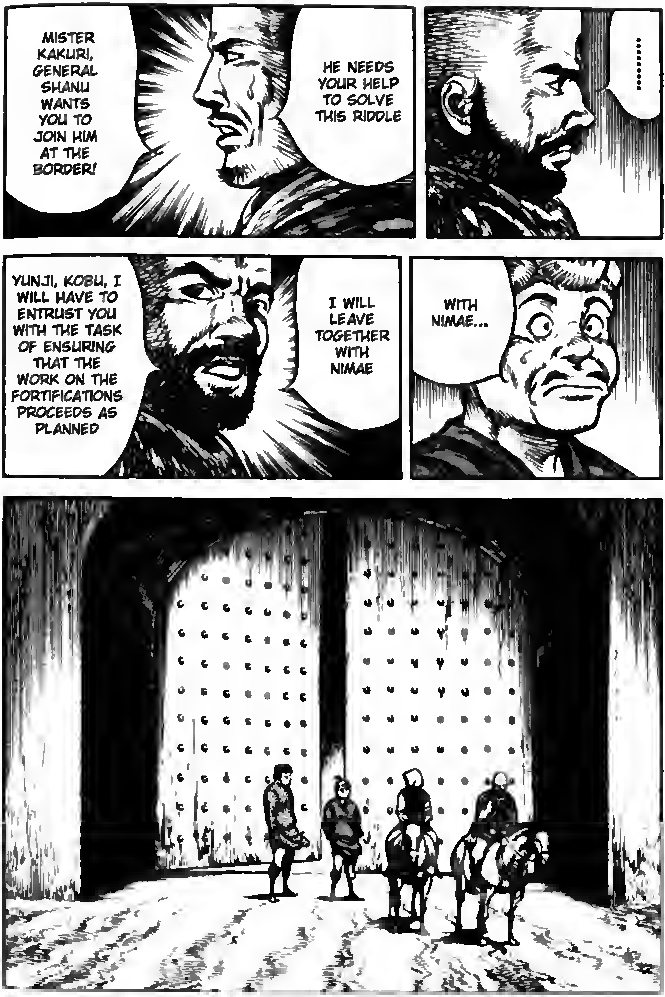
HE DOES NOT HAVE ANYTHING BUT A SMALL WOUND TO THE FOREHEAD
BUT IT'S NOT SEVERE ENOUGH TO KILL A MAN

IS THE ARMY OF SHIN USING MAGIC?

WHO GOES THERE!
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE HERE!

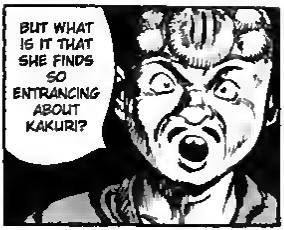
OH, HAVE WE GOT NO RIGHT?
WE PUT OUR LIVES ON THE LINE TO DEFEND THIS CITY, YOU SHOULDN'T BE HIDING ANY-THING FROM US!
AND FURTHER-MORE, WE ARE ONLY HERE BECAUSE WE WERE TOLD TO COME
?
DZA
DZA
I ASKED THEM TO COME HERE
EVERYONE ELSE, LEAVE!!!
MISTER KAKURI, COME AND EXAMINE THIS CORPSE PLEASE!

THIS IS THE LATEST VICTIM!
.....
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT CAUSED THAT WOUND
BUT HE DIED IN DREADFUL SUFFERING A LITTLE WHILE AFTERWARDS!

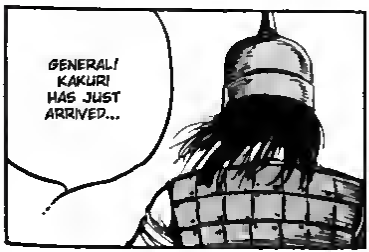

MISTER KAKURI, GENERAL SHANU WANTS YOU TO JOIN HIM AT THE BORDER!
HE NEEDS YOUR HELP TO SOLVE THIS RIDDLE
.....
YUNJI, KOBU, I WILL HAVE TO ENTRUST YOU WITH THE TASK OF ENSURING THAT THE WORK ON THE FORTIFICATIONS PROCEEDS AS PLANNED
I WILL LEAVE TOGETHER WITH NIMAE
WITH NIMAE...

YAHAH !!
PATA
TAPA
TA
TAPA
TAP

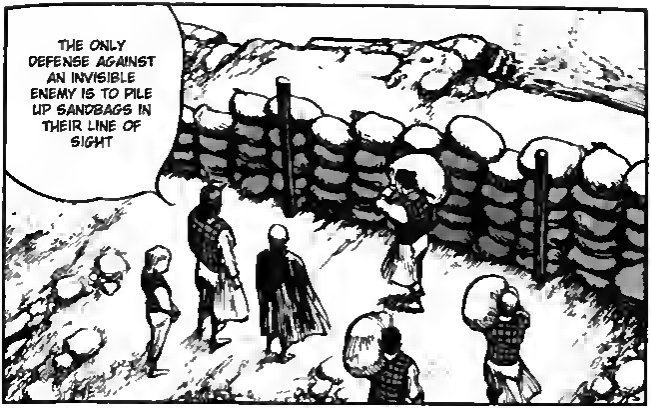
NIMAE SEEMED HAPPY


BUT WHAT IS IT THAT SHE FINDS SO ENTRANCING ABOUT KAKURI?

IN ANY CASE, SHE SEEMS A LOT MORE HAPPY THAN SHE DID THE FIRST TIME WE SAW HER


GENERAL! KAKURI HAS JUST ARRIVED...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUICK ARRIVAL!
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF PROBLEM
YES, BOTH SIDES HAD TO BURY THEIR DECEASED AND TO LOOK AFTER THE WOUNDED, SO A TEMPORARY PEACE WAS ESTABLISHED
WHAT WORRIES ME IS THESE MYSTERIOUS DEATHS WHICH CONTINUALLY WEAKEN US, WHEREAS WE SHOULD REALLY BE GATHERING STRENGTH
THEY ALL HAVE A WOUND TO THEIR FOREHEADS, IT IS AS IF THEY WERE STRUCK BY SOMETHING
IT'S ALWAYS THE GUARDS CLOSE TO THE EDGE OF THE RIVER WHO ARE HIT, THE WEAPON THEY'RE USING SEEM TO HAVE A LIMIT
THE GUNNER MUST BE HIDDEN IN THE WATER OR ON THE OPPOSITE BANK
IN ANY CASE, HE SUCCEEDS IN NEVER BEING SPOTTED


THE ONLY DEFENSE AGAINST AN INVISIBLE ENEMY IS TO PILE UP SANDBAGS IN THEIR LINE OF SIGHT

WHILE THE ARMY OF SHIN RESTS AND HEAL THEIR WOUND, WE ARE HAUNTED BY THE CONSTANT DANGER
IT IS SAID THAT THE ARMY OF SHIN HAS GOT A MAGIC WEAPON. THE FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN MAKES US LOSE OUR COMBAT SPIRIT

.....
PFF

SHSHSH
PAF
AIE !!
AHH! I'M HIT!!
OOOH !
BERK

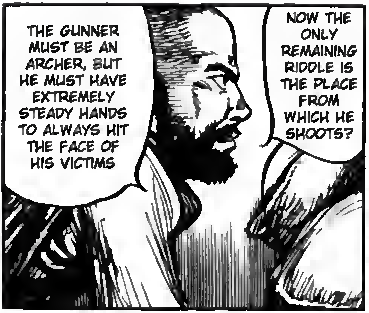
BEUAARGL
IT'S THE MAGIC WEAPON

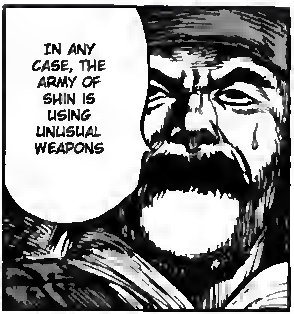
HIS PUPIL IS DILATED, HE'S BEEN POISONED
POISON !
GENERAL, GIVE ME A UNIFORM AND SOME CLOTH,
I MUST SOLVE THESE RIDDLES ONE BY ONE!

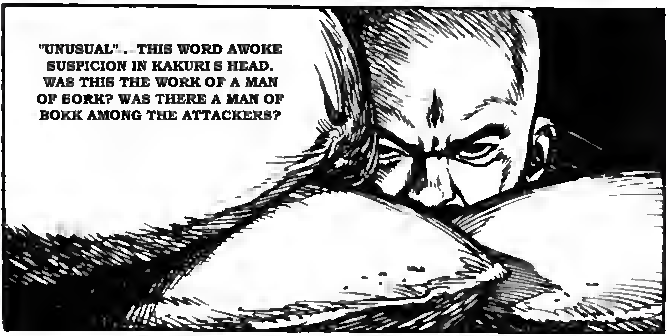
DZZ

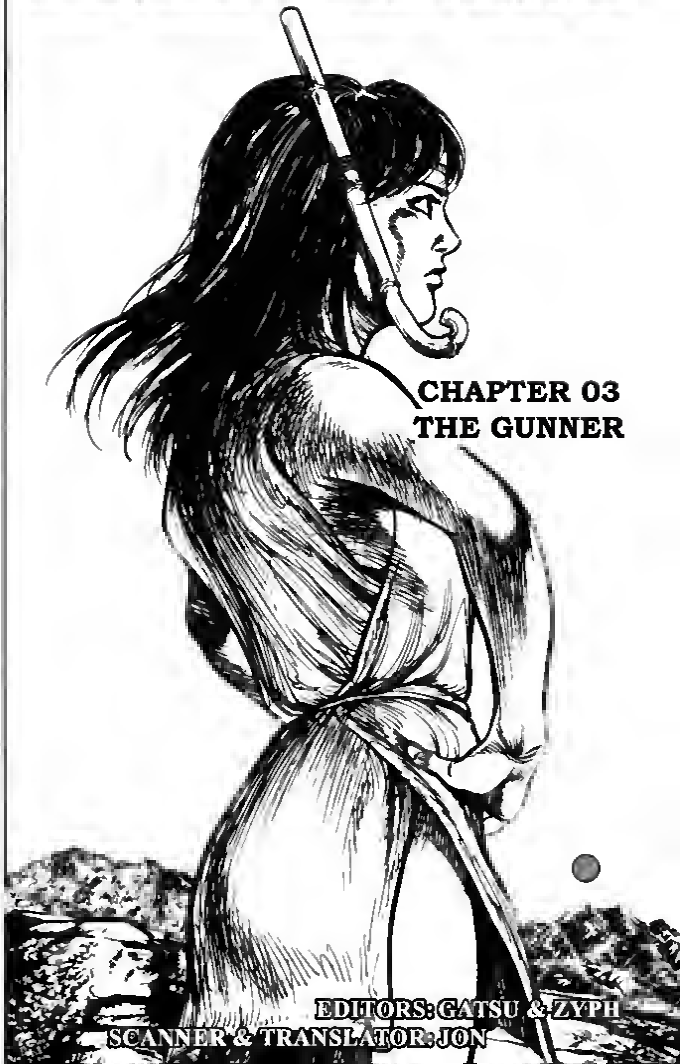
SHSHSH
PAF
OOOH !
TCH'K
HUH? A STONE !
NIMAE, DID YOU LOCATE THE GUNNER?

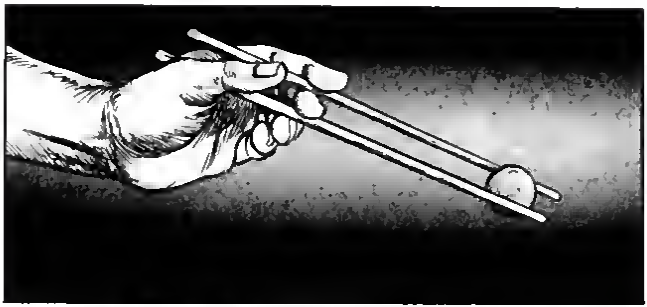
NO, NOTHING MOVED
.....
.....
IF A STONE FALLS DOWN AMONG OTHER STONES, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL THEM APART
THIS POISON MUST BE VERY POWERFUL SINCE SUCH A SMALL QUANTITY IS ENOUGH TO KILL A MAN

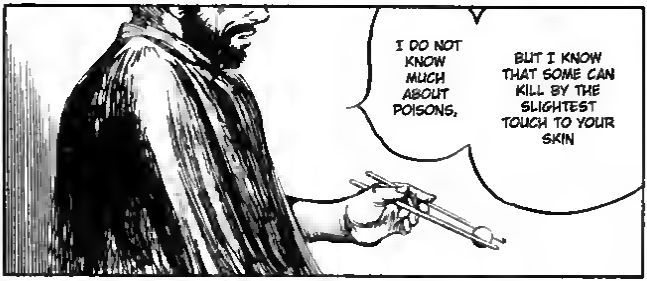

THE GUNNER MUST BE AN ARCHER, BUT HE MUST HAVE EXTREMELY STEADY HANDS TO ALWAYS HIT THE FACE OF HIS VICTIMS
NOW THE ONLY REMAINING RIDDLE IS THE PLACE FROM WHICH HE SHOOTS?


IN ANY CASE, THE ARMY OF SHIN IS USING UNUSUAL WEAPONS

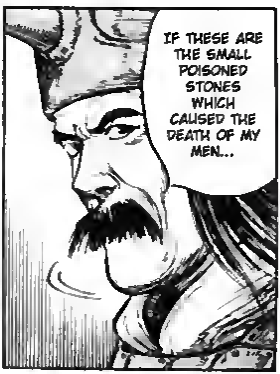

"UNUSUAL"... THIS WORD AWOKE SUSPICION IN KAKURI S HEAD. WAS THIS THE WORK OF A MAN OF BORK? WAS THERE A MAN OF BOKK AMONG THE ATTACKERS?


CHAPTER 03
THE GUNNER
EDITORS: GATSU & ZYPH
SCANNER & TRANSLATOR: JON




I DO NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT POISONS,
BUT I KNOW THAT SOME CAN KILL BY THE SLIGHTEST TOUCH TO YOUR SKIN

FRIGHTEN-ING, HUH?

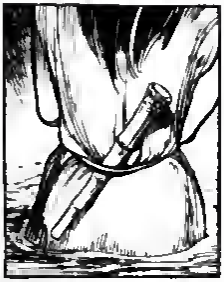

IF THESE ARE THE SMALL POISONED STONES WHICH CAUSED THE DEATH OF MY MEN...

FROM WHERE COULD IT HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED???
FROM THE WATER OR ON THE OPPOSITE BANK...
WATER MOVES, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SHOOT ACCURATELY WHILE FLOATING ON THE WATER
PERHAPS HE'S HIDING IN THOS PILES OF CORPSES
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED?
PFF
PERFECT !
PLA
PLA

PLA
PLA
PLA
PLA

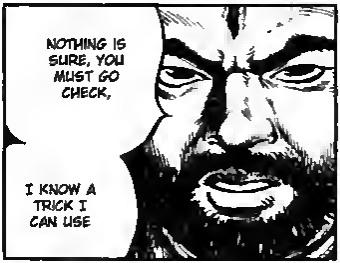
OH LOOK AT THAT BUTT... SEXY!
FIYU
FIYU
STOP THAT!!!
I WILL SEND NIMAE TO EXAMINE THE OTHER BANK
I WILL PRESENT A MANIQUIN FOR THEM TO TARGET ONCE MORE
THIS TIME, WE WILL BE ABLE TO LOCATE THE GUNNER
NIMAE, I'M COUNT-ING ON YOU!
OKAY

DZA
DZA
IN THE SCHOOL OF WARFARE OF THE BOKK CLAN, THERE WAS A FAMOUS ARCHER!
HE COULD SHOOT FURTHER AND MORE ACCU-RATELY THAN EVERYONE ELSE
THERE ARE FEW MEN ABLE TO REACH THE FACE OF ANOTHER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS RIVER
AND NOW THE BOKK CLAN WAS COMBINED WITH THE ARMY OF SHIN. PERHAPS HE'S THE ONE WHO HIDES ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE RIVER
HE WAS A GOOD MAN
ONE OF MY FEW TRUE FRIENDS



NIMAE, YOU WON'T BE NEEDING YOUR DAGGER IF THE GUNNER IS WHO I THINK IT IS, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST HIM
JUST TRY TO LOCATE HIM

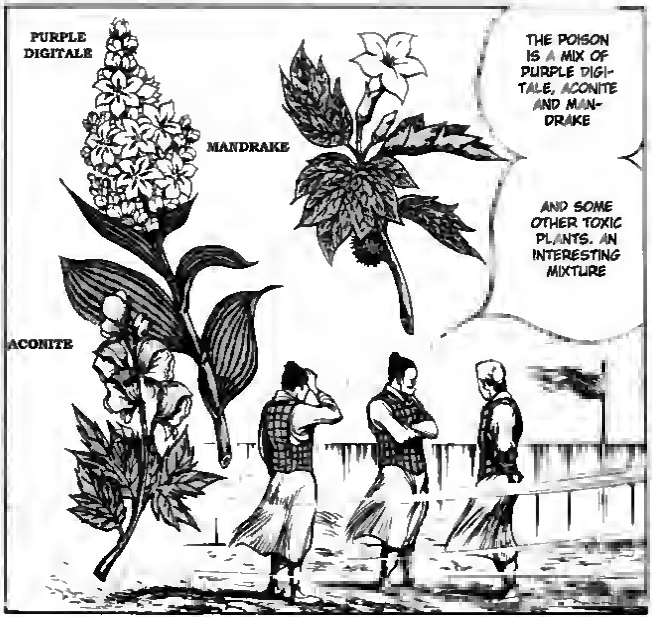
BUT IF IT'S REALLY HIM, THEN WHY DO I NEED TO GO CHECK?


NOTHING IS SURE, YOU MUST GO CHECK,
I KNOW A TRICK I CAN USE

?

BLUP
BLUP

THE CAMP OF THE ARMY OF SHIN
HO HO HO! AFTER SEEING THEIR COMRADES DIE IN MYSTERIOUS MANNERS THE SOLDIERS OF TCHO MUST BE SCARED TO DEATH
COMMANDER OF THE ELITE OF SHIN'S ARMY
ON THIS SIDE, WE CAN BANDAGE OUR WOUNDS IN PEACE, WHILE THE OTHER SIDE IS PANICKING
THEY THINK THAT WE HAVE GOT A MAGIC WEAPON, THEY ARE SCARED SHITLESS
AH
AH
HAHAHA! THAT'S WHAT I LIKE TO HEAR!

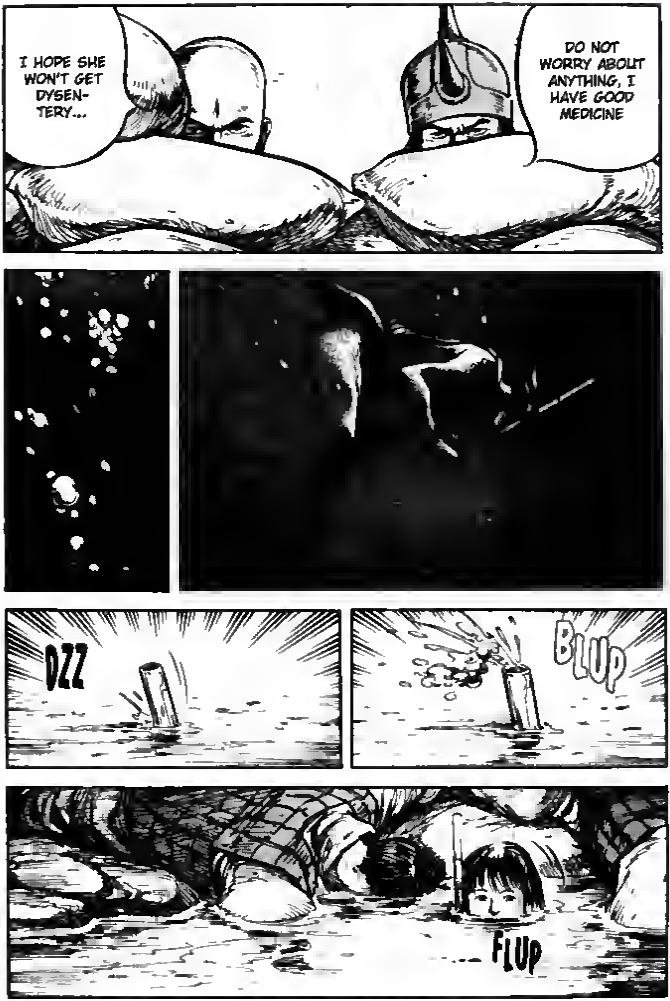

PURPLE DIGITALE
MANDRAKE
ACONITE
THE POISON IS A MIX OF PURPLE DIGITALE, ACONITE AND MANDRAKE
AND SOME OTHER TOXIC PLANTS. AN INTERESTING MIXTURE

DZA
DZA

THE INSECT SECTION OF THE BOKK CLAN,
THAT USED TO BE THE AGRICUL-TURE SECTION
IT WAS THEY WHO KNEW ABOUT THESE TOXIC PLANTS AND WAS ABLE TO COMBINE THEM, THEY ARE THE REAL MAGI-CIANS

THE LAST TIME, I LET MYSELF BE SURPRISED BY KAKURI, THE MAN OF BOKK,
BUT THIS TIME I WILL SUCCEED IN BREACHING THE BORDER
IF NOT, MY HEAD WILL FALL

DZZZZ

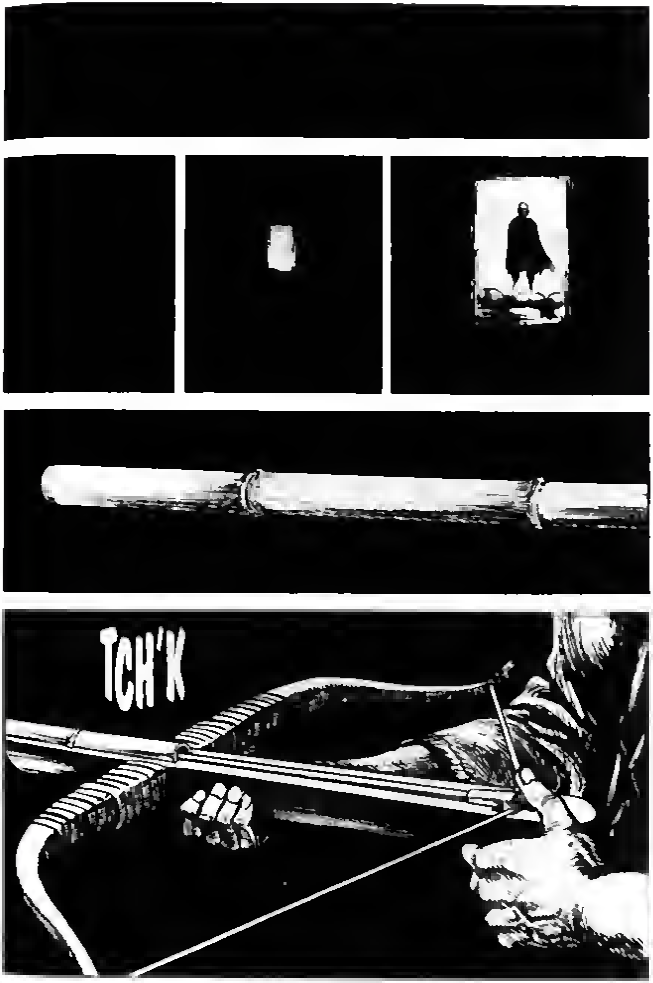

I HOPE SHE WON'T GET DYSEN-TERY...
DO NOT WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING, I HAVE GOOD MEDICINE
DZZ
BLUP
FLUP

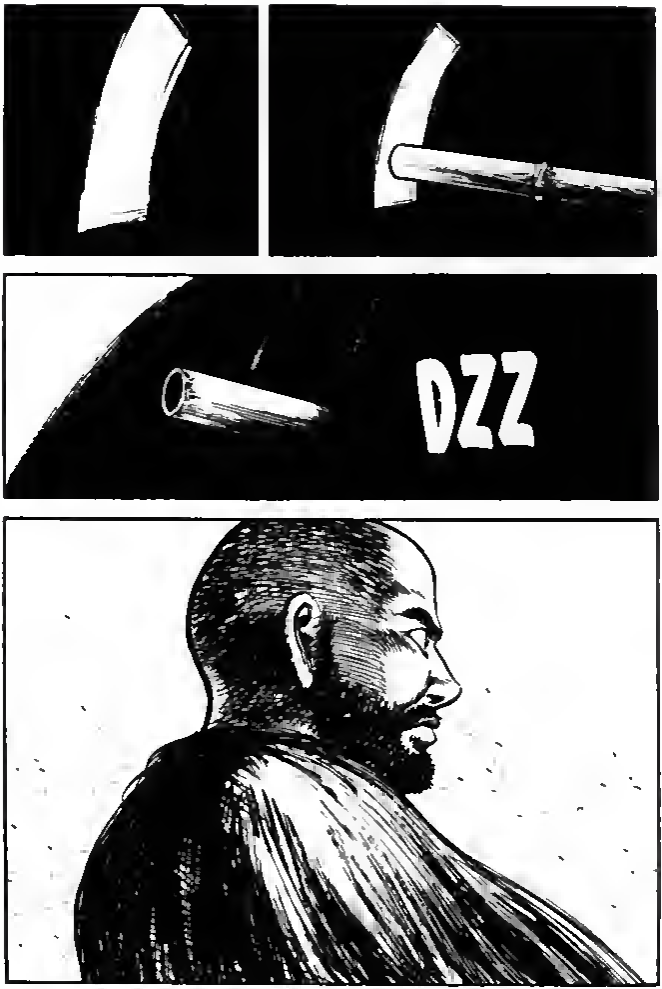
CLICK
CLICK
SHE'S A GREAT LITTLE GIRL....!
TO GO SWIM LIKE THAT RIGHT BETWEEN THE CORPSES, EVEN A MAN WOULD HESITATE TO DO IT
SHE MUST HAVE COMPLETE TRUST IN YOU, FROM THE BOTTOM OF HER HEART
IT'S ALL ROTTING, WHAT A STENCH!
COULD THE GUNNER REALLY BE HERE?

DZAH

KAKURI, WHAT ARE YOU...
HE'S USING HIMSELF AS A TARGET!

HE PLACES HIMSELF THERE BECAUSE HE WANTS TO ENSURE HIMSELF OF THE IDENTITY OF THE GUNNER
HE THINKS THAT IF HE IS REALLY HIS FRIEND, THE GUNNER WILL NOT SHOOT HIM
KAKURI, YOU IDIOT! YOU'RE TOO OLD TO TAKE THESE KINDS OF RISKS


TCH'K


DZZ

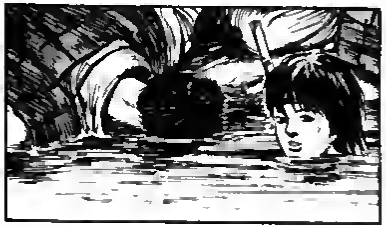
romance@lycomics.com

CHAPTER 04

THE CALLING

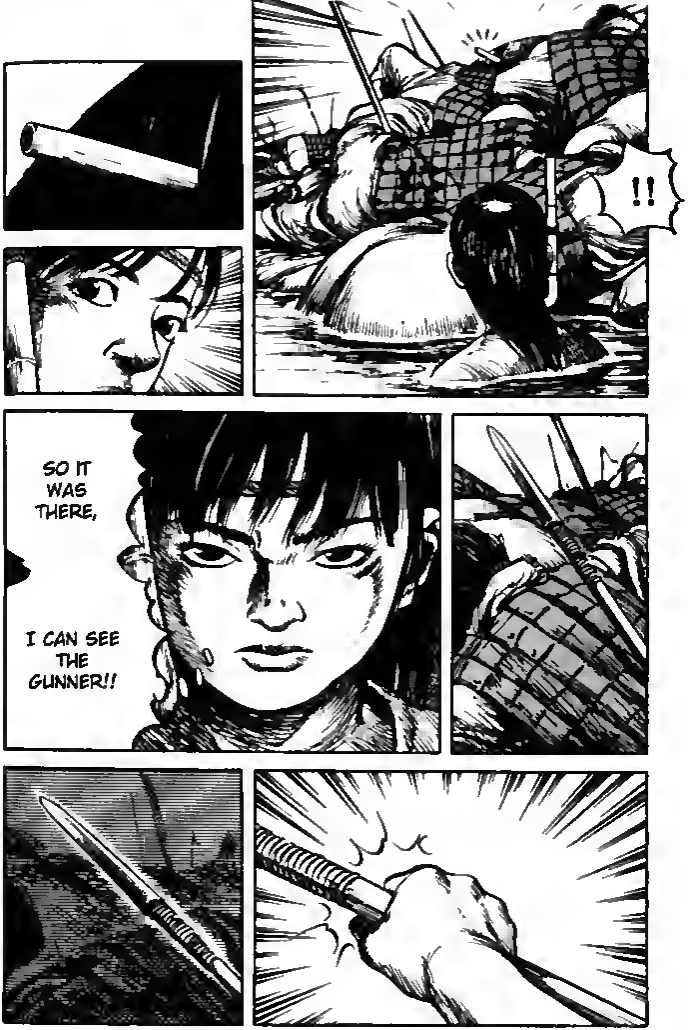
EDITORS: GATSU & ZYPH
SCANNER & TRANSLATOR: JON

KAKURI, GET DOWN FROM THERE!!
TO EXPOSE YOURSELF TO DANGER CHANGES NOTHING!



IF I DO NOT FIND THE GUNNER QUICKLY, KAKURI WILL BE KILLED

OH
OUOUAH
OH! KAKURI !
THEY GOT HIM


!!
SO IT WAS THERE,
I CAN SEE THE GUNNER!!

OH !
THAT CAM-OUFLAGE, FOR THE MOST PART, IS INVISIBLE
DZZ

KAKURI
...
TCHAK

AAH !!
GL GL
WILL... WILL YOU PLEASE TELL KAKURI THAT...
INSIDE THE BOKK CLAN ALSO .. THERE ARE MANY... WHO DOUBTS
ME .. I WAS ONE OF THEM...
THAT IS WHY I DID NOT SHOOT KAKURI

KAKURI WASN'T HIT?
KAKURI IS ALIVE!!
AH, MISS NIMAE HAS RETURNED !
TAP TAP
OH KAKURI, DAMN YOU!
AH AH
I COULD NOT LET HIM DIE. I PULLED HIS COAT TO MAKE HIM FALL! HAHAHA!

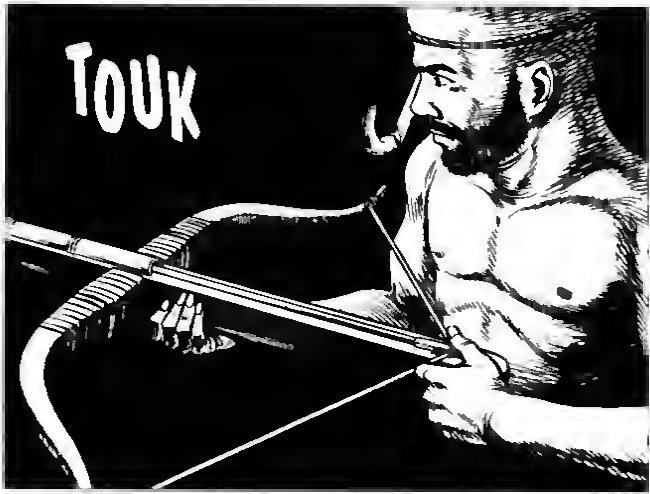
THE GUNNER, DID YOU FIND HIM?
HE WAS IN A SMALL CAMOU-FLAGED HUT, I TOOK HIM OUT QUITE EASILY
!
WITH A SWIFT THRUST WITH MY SPEAR!
OOOH !
THIS GIRL IS DANGEROUS!
PAN

PAN
KAKURI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOUR MISSION WAS TO LOCATE THE GUNNER
NO MORE!
BUT YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THAT
YOU WOULD BE THE TARGET!

I DID IT BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU WERE KILLED!
KAKURI YOU IDIOT!
SHE CALLED HIM AN IDIOT, HIHIHI!
IT IS NOT FUNNY!
DZA

IS EVERY-THING I DO SO BAD?
DOES MY PRES-ENCE BOTHER YOU?
ALL I WANT IS TO AVENGE MY SISTER!
I WILL NOT GIVE UP UNTIL I HAVE HAVE KILLED WANIJA, THE GENERAL OF SHIN
HE WAS MY FRIEND, HE WOULDN'T HAVE SHOT ME
IT WAS UP TO ME TO DECIDE HIS FATE

.....
BEFORE DYING, HE SAID TO ME THAT, INSIDE THE BOKK CLAN, THERE WERE MANY DISBELIEV-ERS...
AND THAT HE WAS ONE OF THEM... THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T SHOOT YOU!
KAKURI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DZA
DZA
KAKURI!
DZA


TOUK

THE CAMP OF SHIN S ARMY
MY SOLDIERS HAVE RESTED AND THEIR WOUNDS HAS BEEN TAKEN CARE OF.
CROSS THE RIVER, LAUNCH THE ATTACK!

AH
AH
AH
BEWARE, PEOPLE OF TCHO, YOU WILL SOON SEE! THEN YOU WILL DIE!
COMMANDER OF THE ELITE OF SHIN'S ARMY
PAF
AAH !
WHAT WAS IT THAT HIT ME?
POC
TCH'K

CH... CHIEF, IT WAS A POI-SONED STONE!
H-HOW COULD THAT BE?
DID THE GUNNER, THAT MAN OF BOKK... DID HE BETRAY US?
BUT FROM WHERE DID HE SHOOT?!
ALL YOU MEN OF BOKK WHO HELP THE ARMY OF SHIN, LISTEN TO ME!
HUH?

IT'S THE VOICE OF KAKURI!
CATCH HIM!
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
FIND BACK THE REAL WAY OF THE MEN OF BOKK
CH... CHIEF !
THE BOKK CLAN SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR THE AMBITIONS OF THE KING OF SHIN, IT GOES AGAINST WHAT WE STAND FOR!

EVERY-ONE, FLEE TO SE!
AND WE WILL FIGHT TOGETHER!
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

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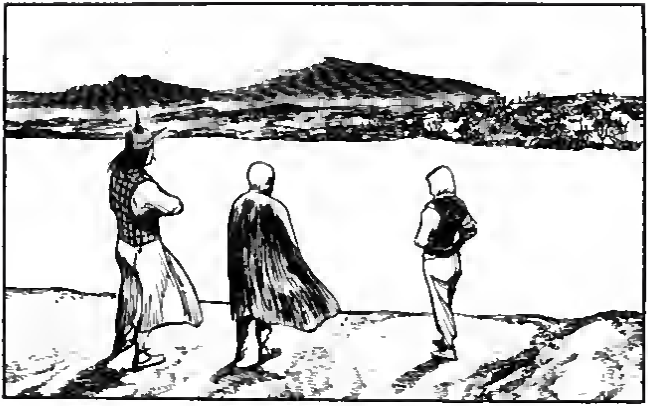
CHAPTER 05
THE TEST

EDITORS: GATSU & ZYPH
SCANNER & TRANSLATOR: JON



KAKURI, NIMAE!
YOU CAME AND STOPPED THE GUNNER AND EVEN THE COMMANDER OF SHIN'S ELITE. I THANK YOU!

IT WILL TAKE THEM SOME TIME RETURN, BUT AT LEAST THEY WON'T CROSS THE RIVER NOW
BUT THERE IS SOMETHING MORE DANGEROUS WHICH IS LIKELY TO CROSS THE RIVER SOON

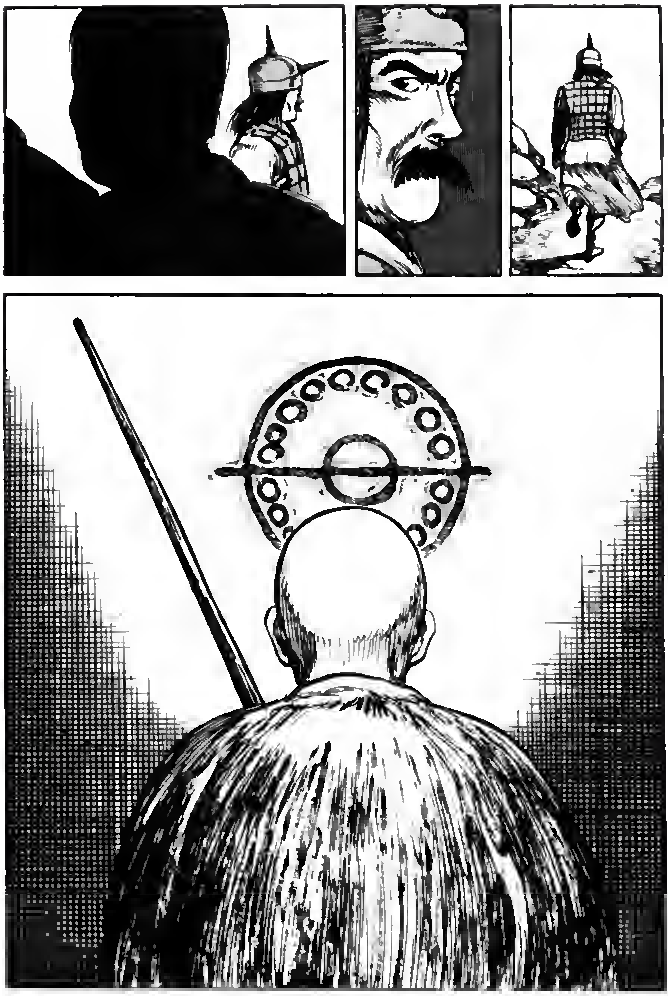
?
THE INSECT DIVISION OF THE BOKK CLAN IS ABOUT TO SEND IT'S CLOUD OF LOCUSTS UPON US
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT IN THAT CASE, FIGHTING WILL BE USELESS
THE LOCUSTS WILL NOT STOP AT THE BORDER
YES THEY WILL! I KNOW A WAY OF DESTROYING THEM
UNFORTUNATELY I CAN'T TELL ANYONE
IT IS NECESSARY THAT YOU TRUST ME COMPLETELY ON THIS MATTER
TELL ME HOW!

DZAH
NIMAE, COME HERE!

.....
HOW CAN YOU FIGHT AGAINST A MILLION INSECTS?
DZZ
DZZ
TSK
NIMAE, STEP INTO THIS CIRCLE

DO NOT MOVE AN INCH BEFORE I GIVE YOU MY SIGNAL!
HUH?
DZA
DZA
.....

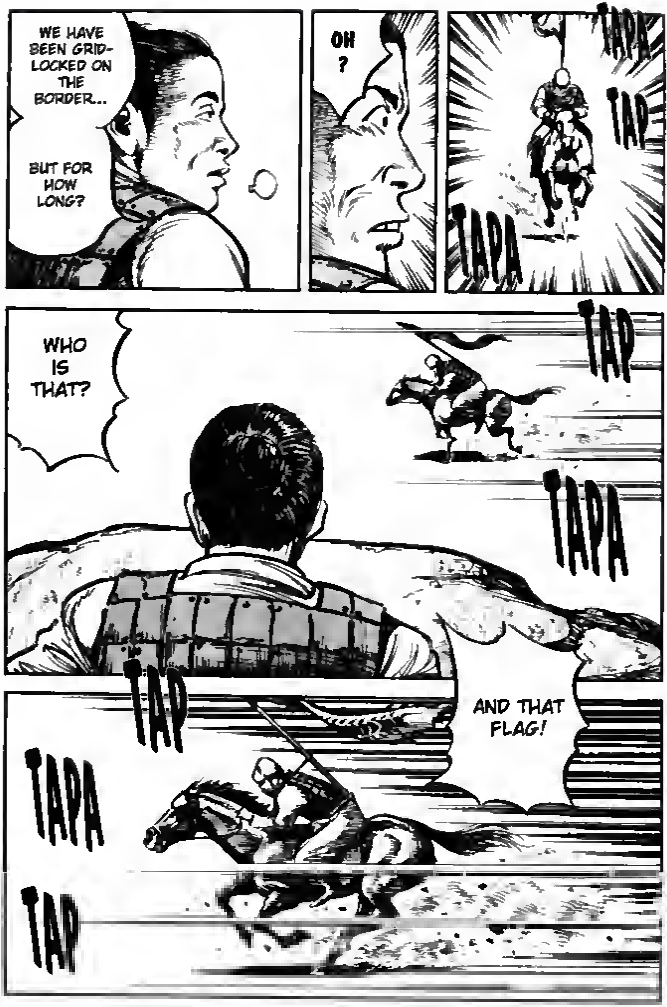
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
EH WELL ...
WHY IS HE MAKING ME DO THIS?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT LET'S DO THE SAME THING
JUST MAKE SURE THAT WE DON'T LOSE!
HA HA HA HA HAH !

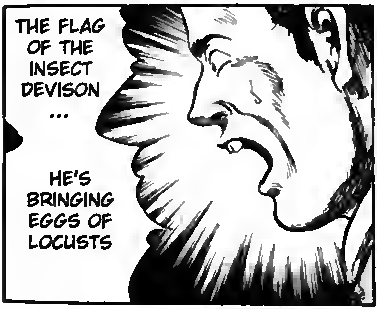


KE-RI
!!
DZZ
DZZ
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH NIMAE? THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY LOCUSTS!
NOT DIRECTLY ...
?

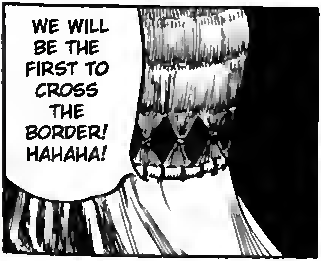
BRRR
WE WANT TO PISS, WE CANNOT HOLD OURSELVES ANYMORE!
THEY ARE RIDICULOUS, HA HA!
CALM YOURSELVES
INCREDIBLE, SHE REMAINS MOTIONLESS...

THE CAMP OF SHIN'S ARMY

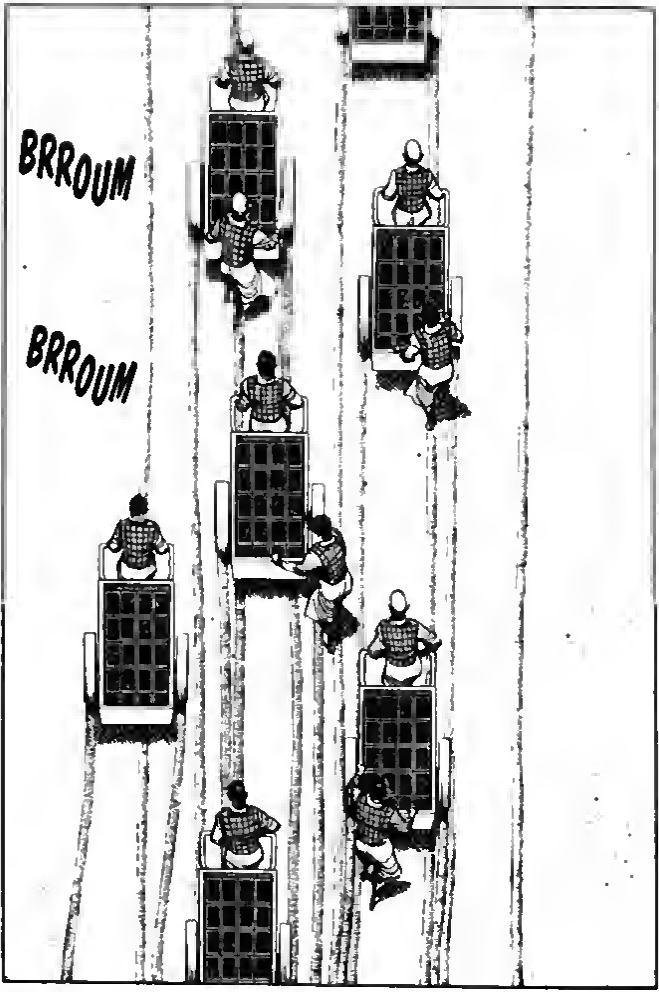

WE HAVE BEEN GRID-LOCKED ON THE BORDER...
BUT FOR HOW LONG?
OH ?
TAPA
TAP
TAPA
WHO IS THAT?
TAP
TAPA
TAP
AND THAT FLAG!
TAPA
TAP


THE FLAG OF THE INSECT DEVISON ...
HE'S BRINGING EGGS OF LOCUSTS

DZA

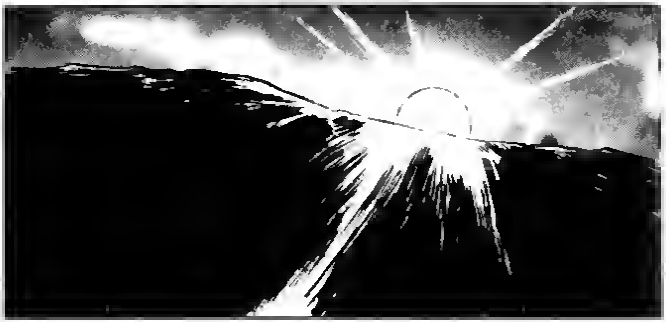

WE WILL BE THE FIRST TO CROSS THE BORDER! HAHAHA!

GOD-DAMMIT!


BRROUM
BRROUM

BRRR
DZA
IT'S OVER, NOW REST!
FLOP

AT EASE!
I TESTED YOU BECAUSE I NEED TO TELL YOU A SECRET WHICH YOU CAN'T TELL ANYONE. NOT EVEN YUNJI AND KOBU
TOMOR-ROW AT DAWN, WE WILL TRAVEL VERY FAR
DZA
DZA
.....



CLIP
CLOP

ALL RIGHT THEN...

BE CAREFUL!

NIMAE, LET'S GO!
TAP
TAP
TAPA
TAP
TAPA
TAP
GENERAL, KAKURI KEEPS A LOT OF THINGS SECRET
CAN WE REALLY TRUST HIM?
.....

YAHAH
!

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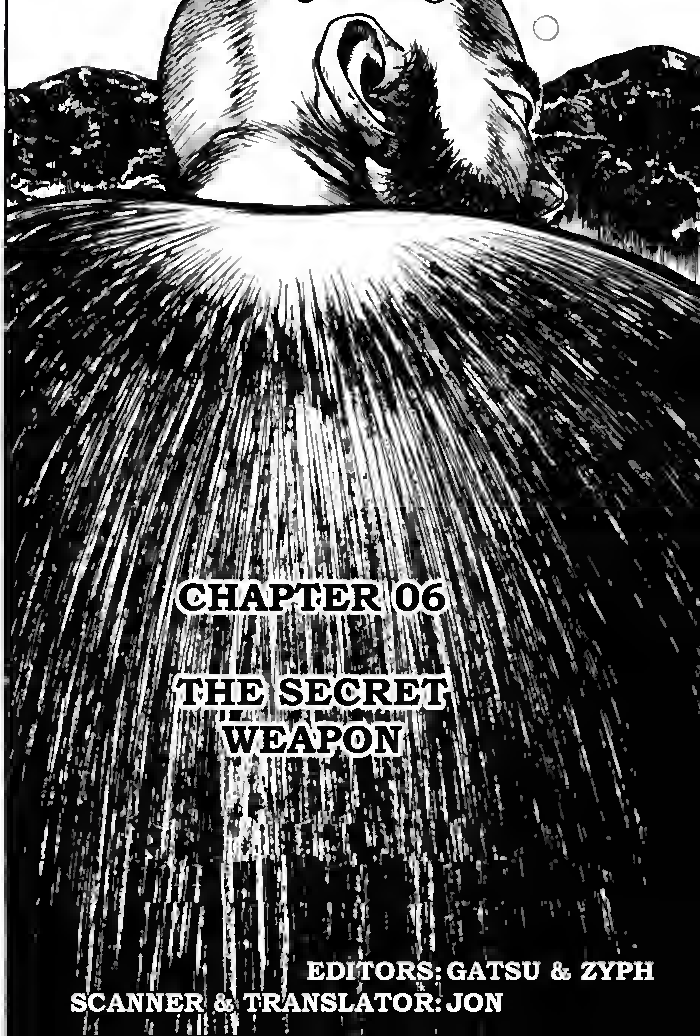
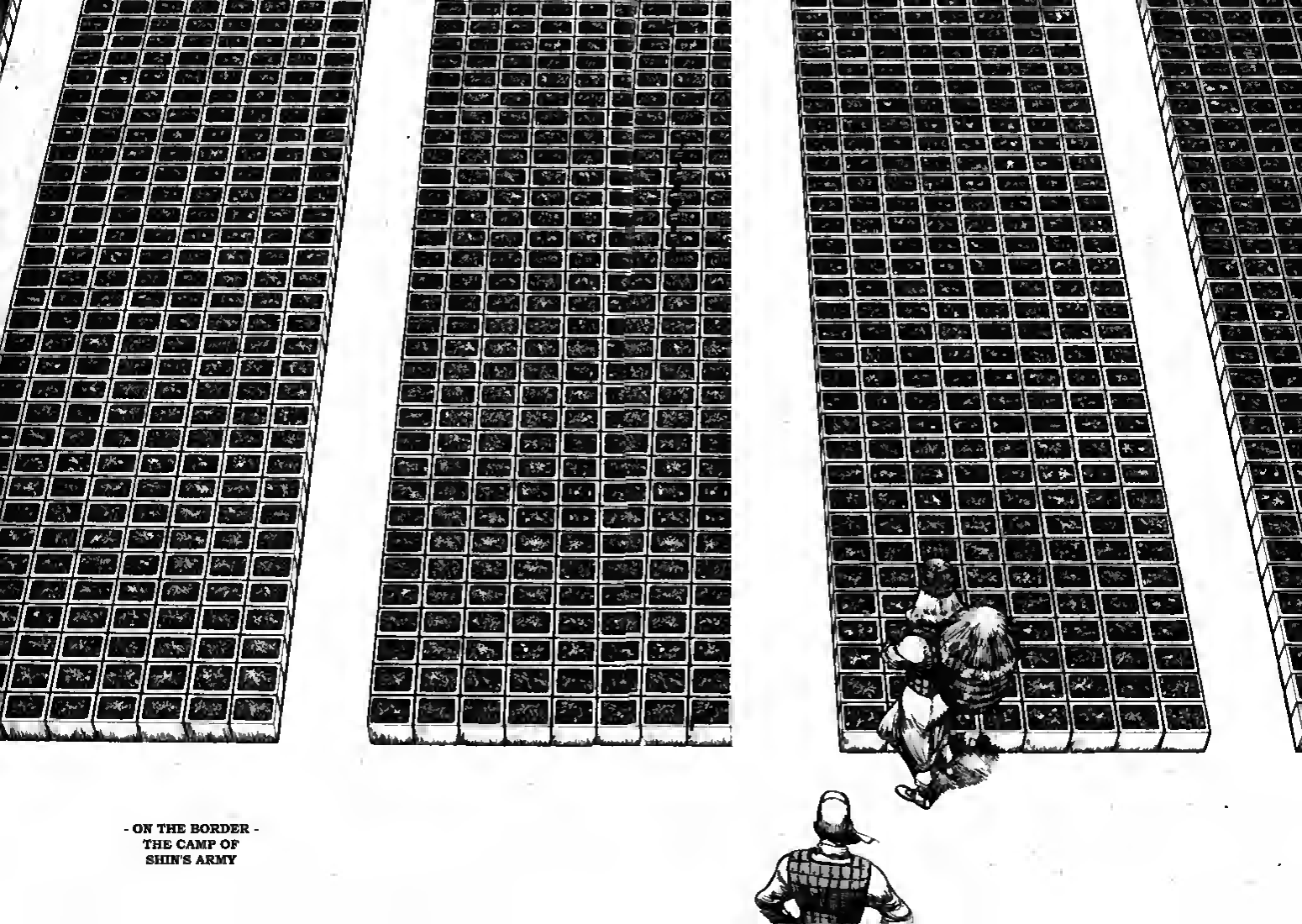


CHAPTER 06

THE SECRET WEAPON

EDITORS: GATSU & ZYPH
SCANNER & TRANSLATOR: JON

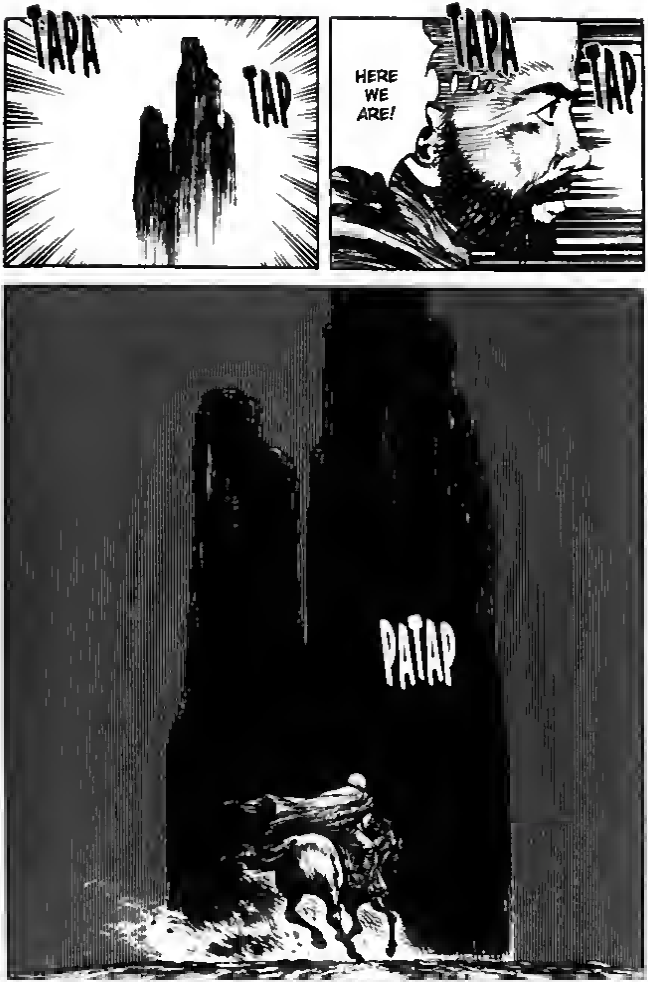


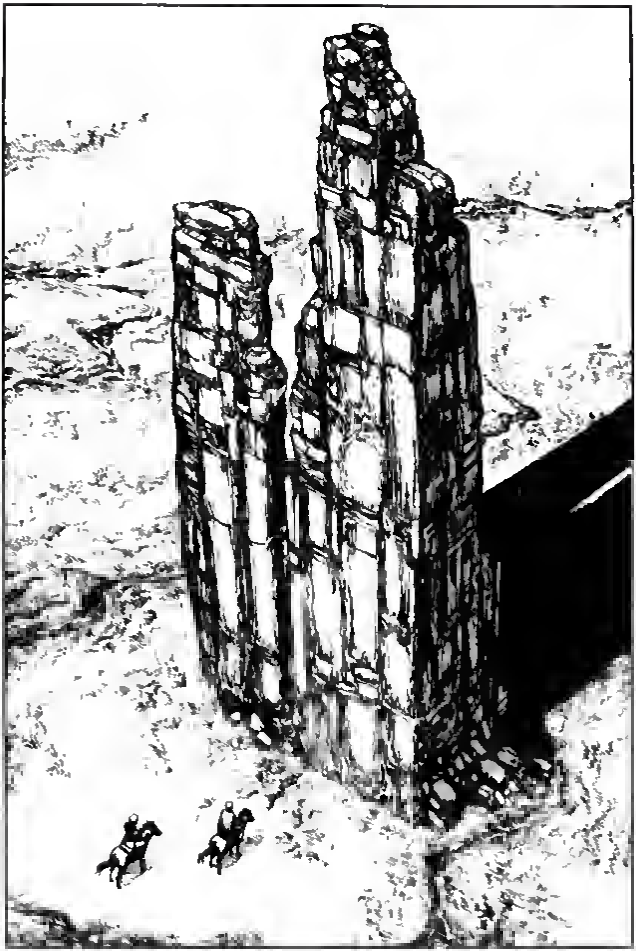
- ON THE BORDER -
THE CAMP OF
SHIN'S ARMY

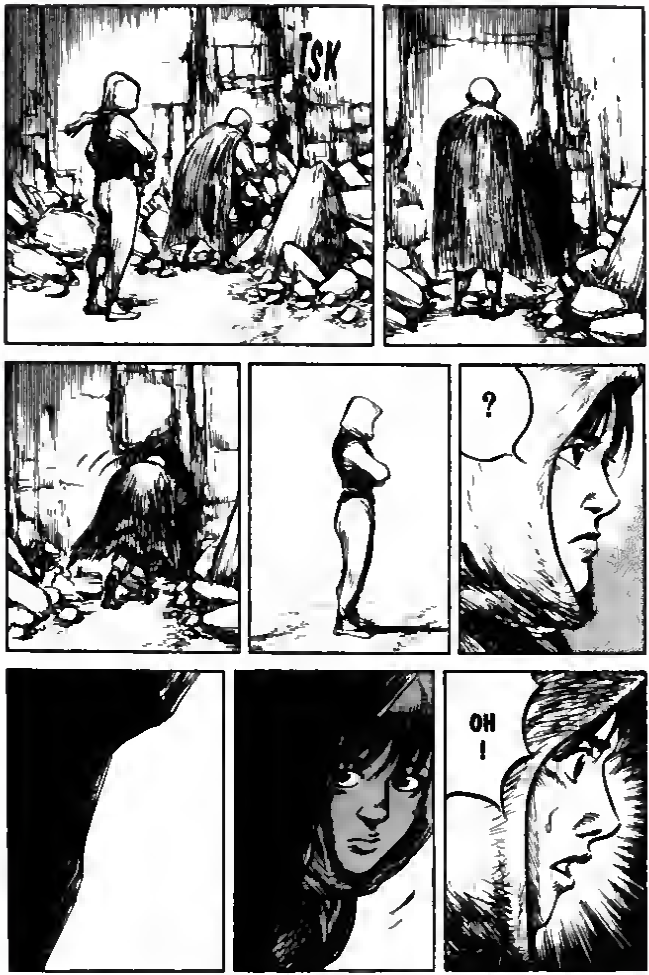
THERE'S NOT MANY DAYS LEFT!
YES THE EGGS WILL HATCH SOMETIME DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS
THEN THE LARVAE WILL PULL OUT THEIR WINGS AND GROW BIGGER AS WE WATCH
OOH !!
THEN MILLIONS OF INSECTS WILL LEAVE TO DEVOUR THE HARVESTS OF TCHO
THE ARMY OF TCHO WILL BE THROWN INTO PANIC, ITS CAPITAL WILL BE STARVING
AND THEN THEY WILL BE CRUSHED LIKE WE ALREADY CRUSHED THE KINGDOM OF KAN

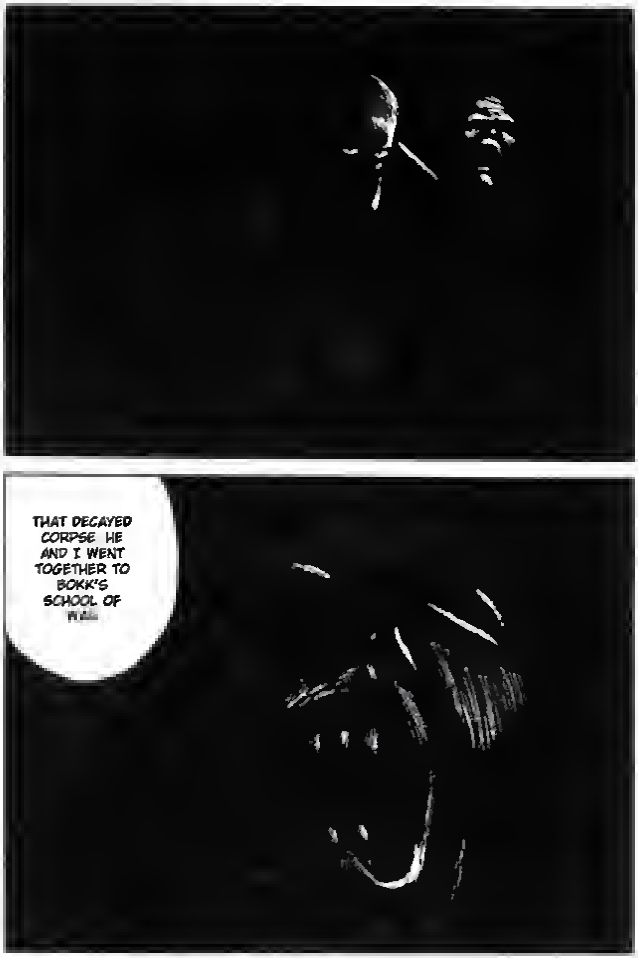
YES, BUT DO NOT FORGET THAT KAKURI IS IN THEIR CAMP
KAKURI, AHAHAHA, ALLOW ME TO LAUGH!
OH NO, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO UNDERESTIMATE HIM
TAP
TAPATAP

TAPA
TAPA
TAP
TAP
WE'VE BEEN RIDING FOR FIVE DAYS! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
AND WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE SO SECRET THAT YOU CAN'T TELL YUNJI AND KOBU ABOUT IT?


TAPA
TAP
HERE WE ARE!
TAPA
TAP
PATAP




TSK
?
OH
!

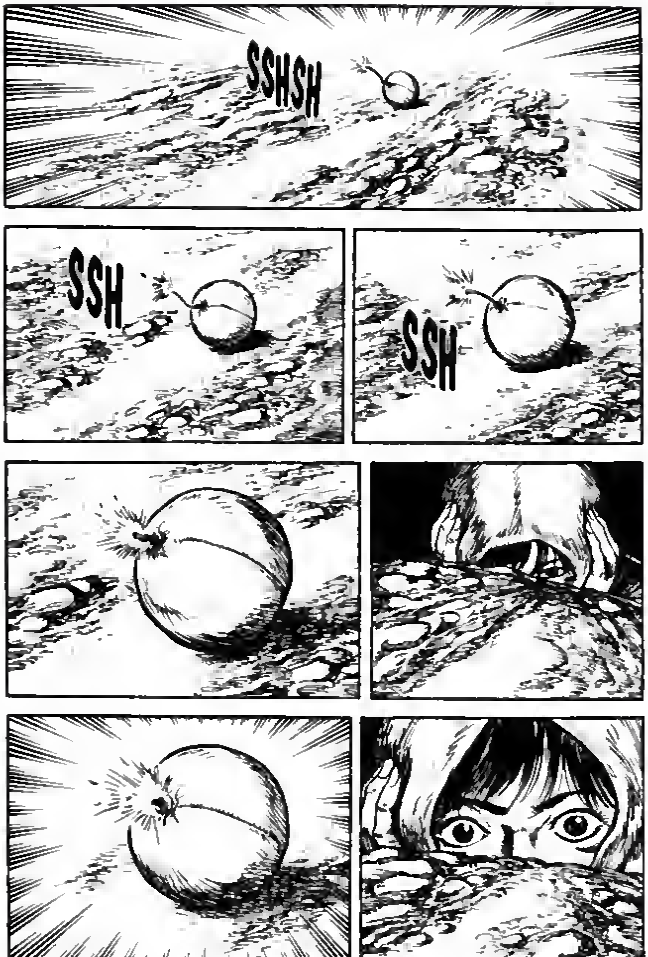

THAT DECAYED CORPSE HE AND I WENT TOGETHER TO BOKK'S SCHOOL OF

HE WAS VERY INTELLIGENT HE INVENTED A LOT OF THINGS
BUT IT WAS I WHO TRIED THEM OUT
.....
TSAH

IT WAS HE WHO MANU-FACTURED THIS BLACK SAND,
IT CONTAINS SALTPETRE
WE CALLED IT POWDER WITH FIRE
POWDER WITH FIRE?

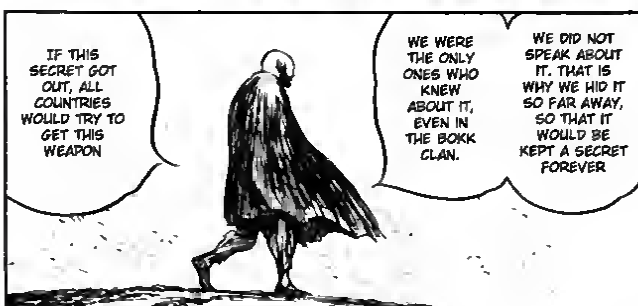
THIS LEATHER BALL IS AN EXPERIMENTAL MODEL. IT IS FILLED WITH THE POWDER!!
YOU WILL SEE THE ENERGY WHICH IT CONTAINS
IF THIS INVENTION WAS TO SPREAD, WARFARE WOULD CHANGE FOREVER!

COVER YOUR EARS!
SH
SSHSH
DZAH
TSK


SSHSH
SSH
SSH

BA
OUM

TSK


IF THIS SECRET GOT OUT, ALL COUNTRIES WOULD TRY TO GET THIS WEAPON
WE WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNEW ABOUT IT, EVEN IN THE BOKK CLAN.
WE DID NOT SPEAK ABOUT IT. THAT IS WHY WE HID IT SO FAR AWAY, SO THAT IT WOULD BE KEPT A SECRET FOREVER

BUT RIGHT FROM THE START, THE SCIENTIST HID HIS TRUE INTENTIONS...
HE WANTED TO TAKE HIS INVENTION AND LEAVE THE BOKK CLAN, SO THAT HE COULD SELL IT TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

AND THAT IS WHY I KILLED HIM
NIMAE, I BROUGHT YOU HERE BECAUSE I NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE TO FILL THESE BALLS WITH POWDER WITH FIRE
I TRUST YUNJI AND KOBU...
IT IS A DANGEROUS WORK
...BUT THEY ARE LESS SKILLFUL THAN YOU, AND THEY HAVE ONLY GOT ONE LIFE, DON'T THEY?
DZA
.....

I DID NOT WANT TO USE IT, BUT AGAINST THE LOCUSTS WE DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE!

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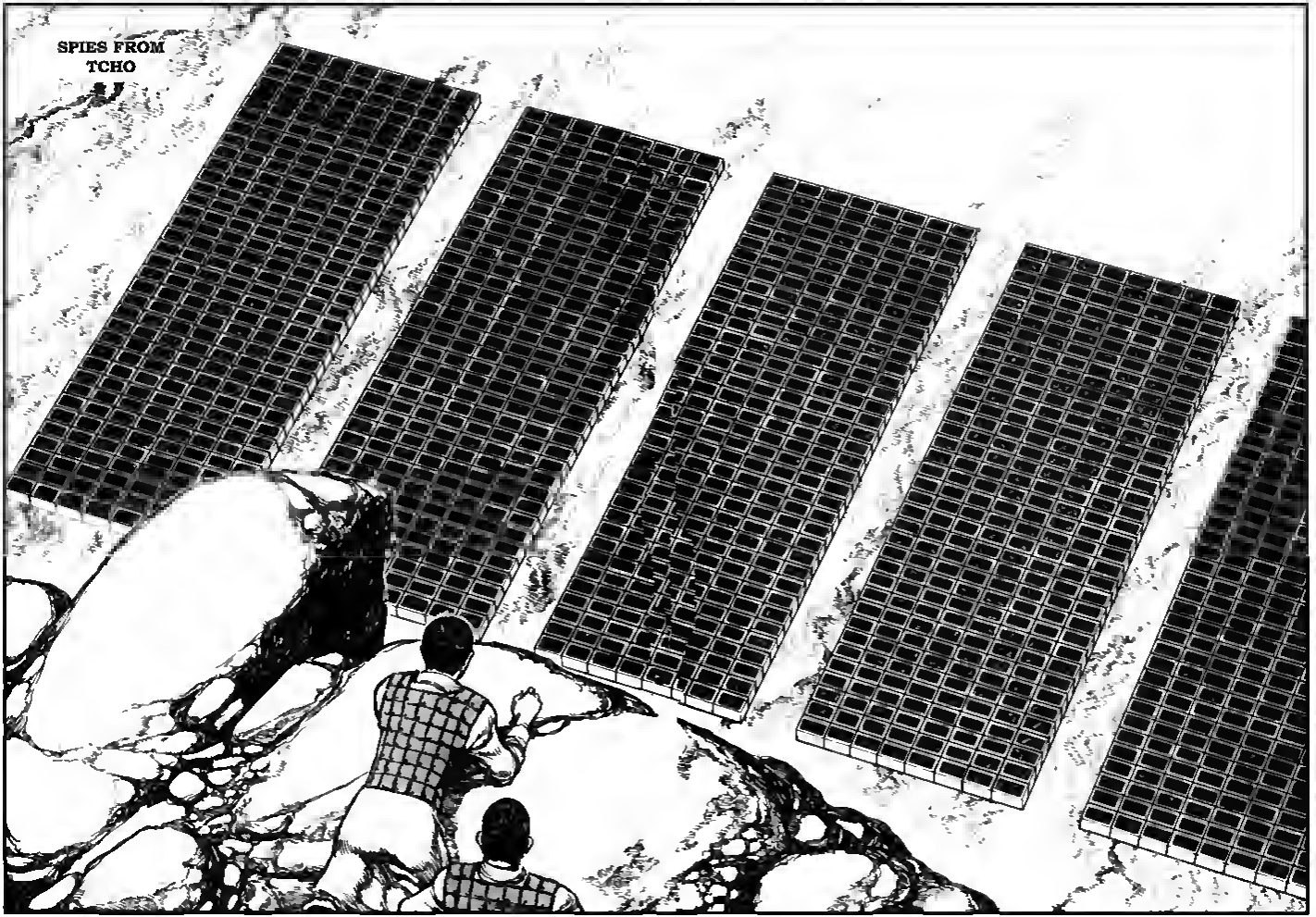
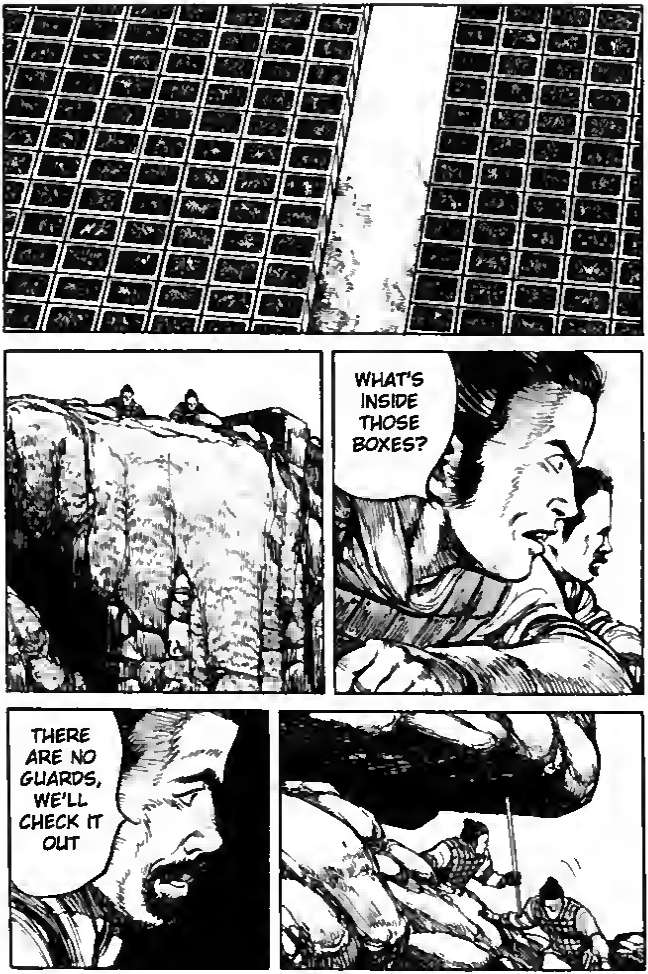
CHAPTER 07

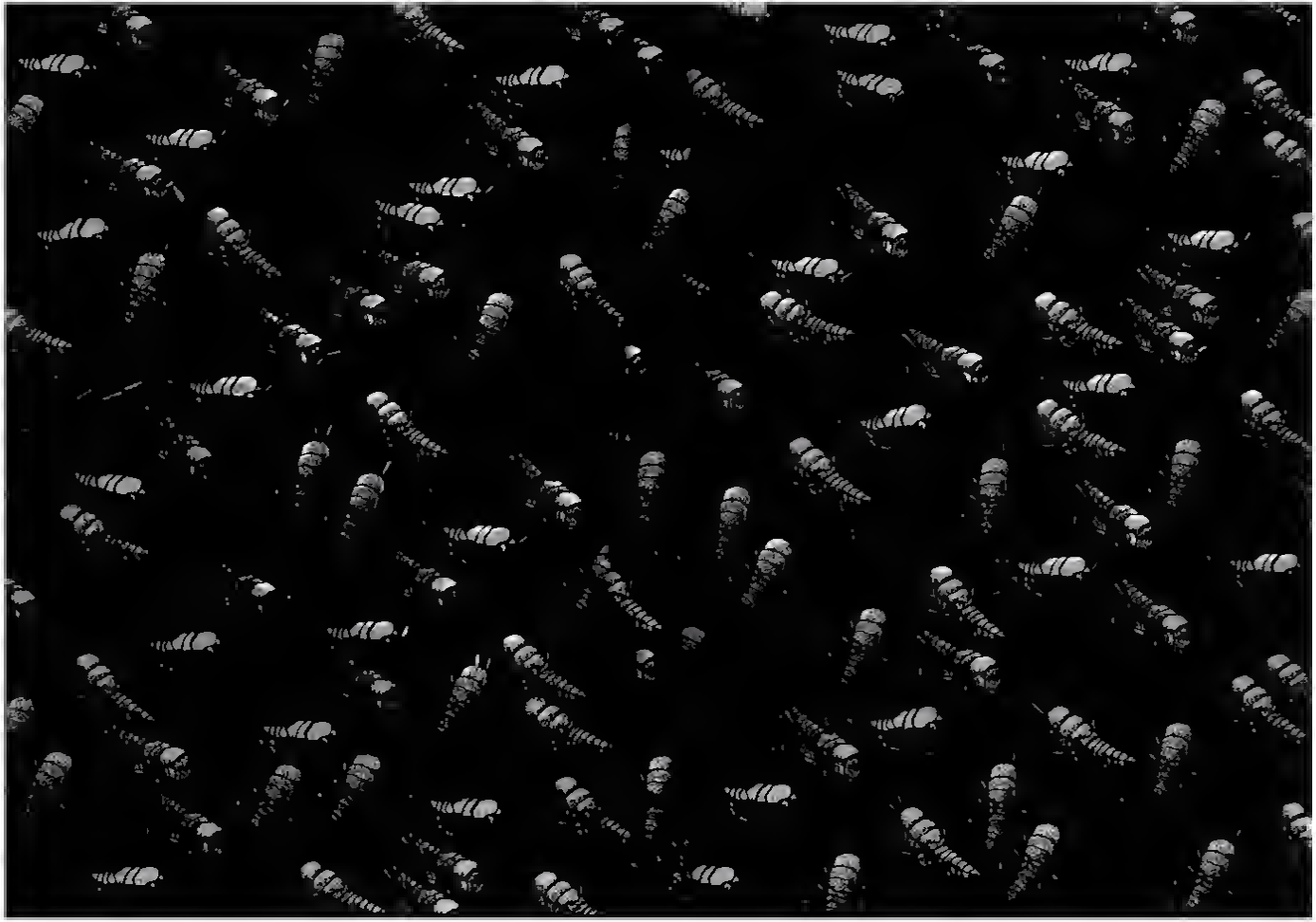
THE MOULT

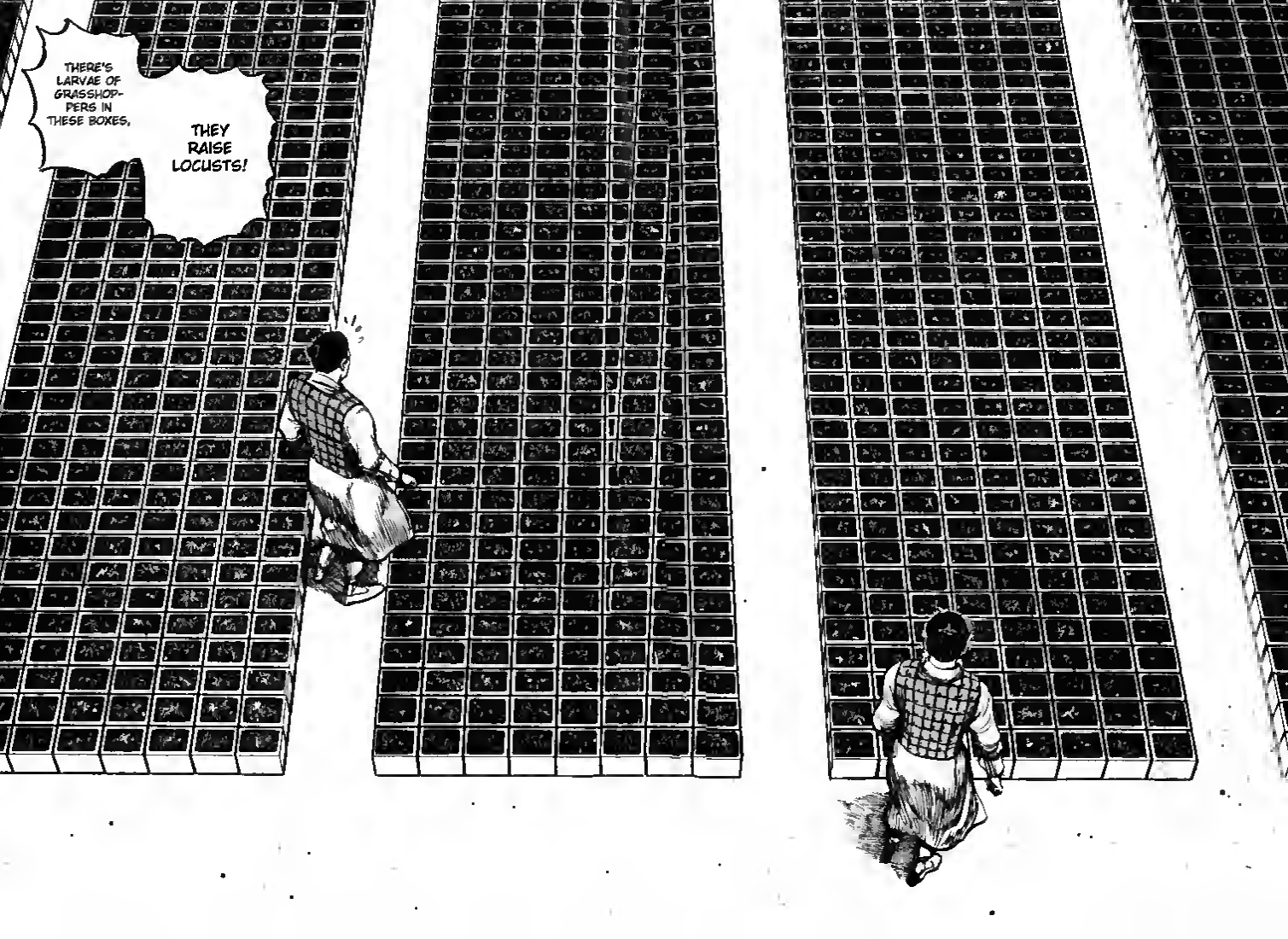
EDITORS: GATSU & ZYPH
SCANNER & TRANSLATOR: JON


SPIES FROM
TCHO

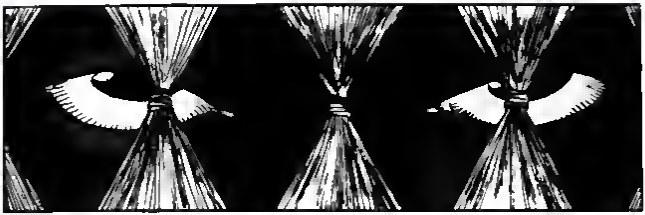

WHAT'S INSIDE THOSE BOXES?
THERE ARE NO GUARDS, WE'LL CHECK IT OUT

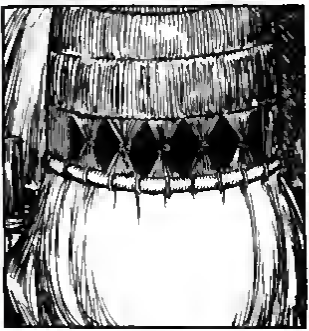
WEEDS, WHY WOULD THEY PLANT WEEDS?
YOU DON'T EAT THAT!
OH !
THERE, UNDER THE GRASS TUFTS!

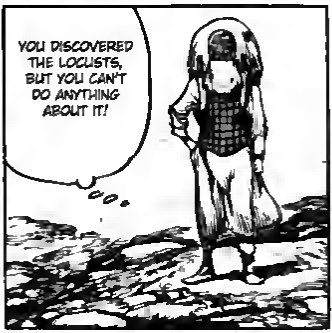



THERE'S LARVAE OF GRASSHOP-PERS IN THESE BOXES,
THEY RAISE LOCUSTS!

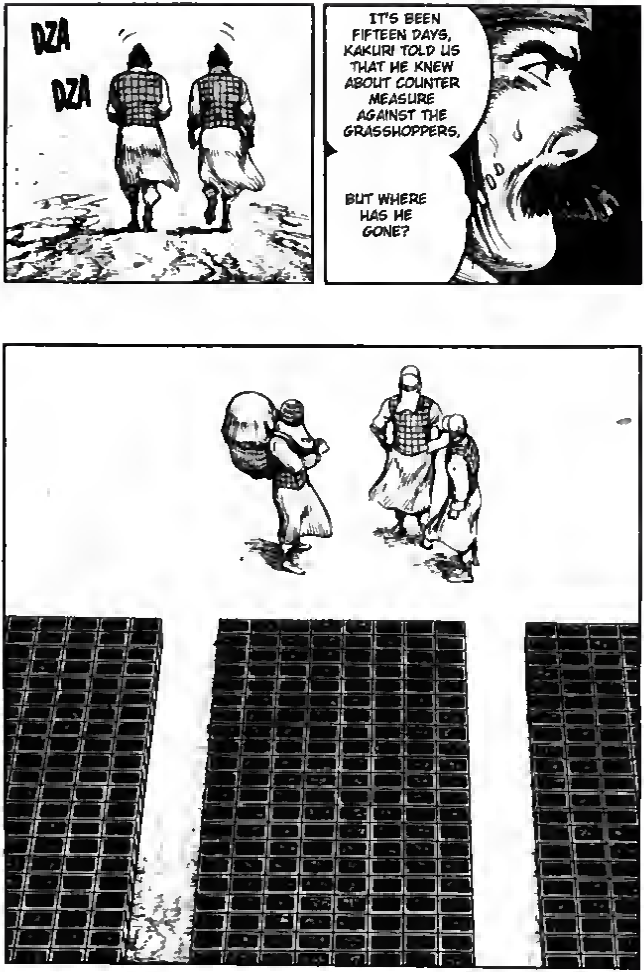
THESE ARE THE SAME LOCUSTS THAT CAUSED THE DEFEAT OF KAN...
IS IT TRUE THAT THEY ACTUALLY BREED INSECTS?
YOU HAVE TO SEE IT TO BELEIVE IT!
LET US RETURN TO TCHO,
WE MUST INFORM SHANU!!
DZAH



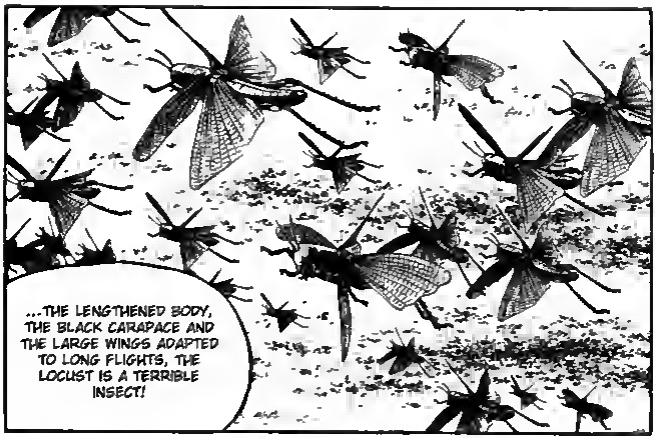


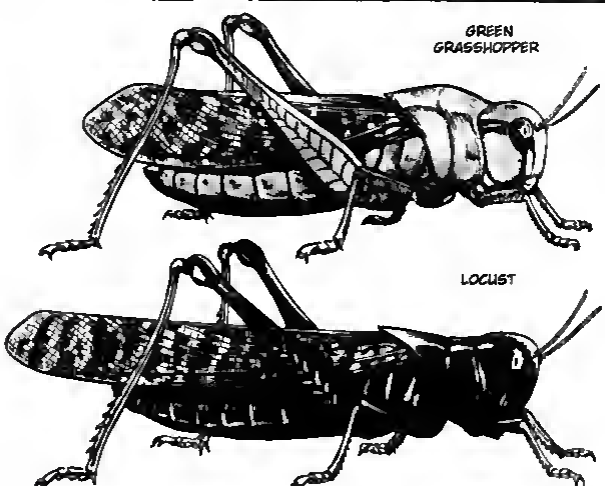

YOU DISCOVERED THE LOCUSTS, BUT YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

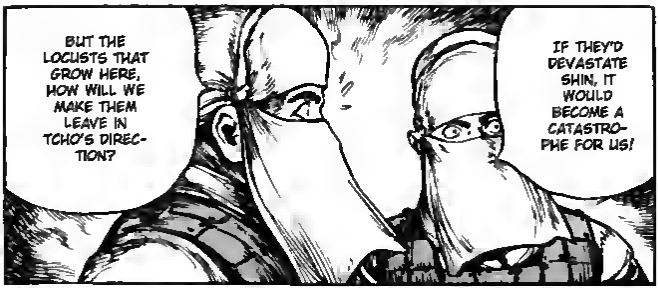
THEY'VE ALREADY STARTED TO SHED SKIN
THANK YOU FOR THIS INVALUABLE INFORMATION, YOU DESERVE TO REST!
SHANU, GENERAL OF TCHO

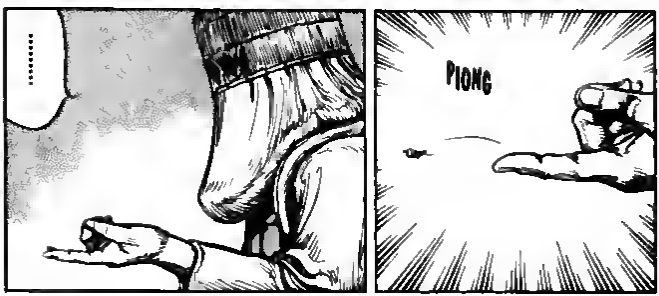

DZA
DZA
IT'S BEEN FIFTEEN DAYS, KAKURI TOLD US THAT HE KNEW ABOUT COUNTER MEASURE AGAINST THE GRASSHOPPERS.
BUT WHERE HAS HE GONE?

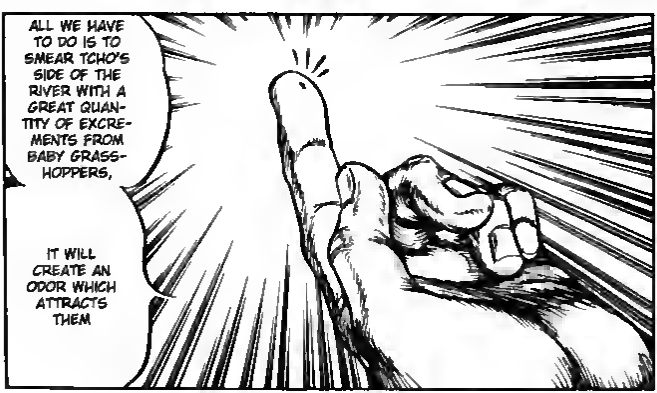
THIS BABY GRASSHOPPER HAS ONLY SHED HIS FIRST SKIN,
IT WILL HAVE TO SHED SKIN FIVE MORE TIMES BEFORE BECOMING AN ADULT
IF THEY REMAIN ISOLATED FROM EACH OTHER HE WILL BECOME A HARMLESS GREEN GRASSHOPPER,
BUT IF THEY STAY TOGETHER, HE WILL BECOME A LARGE BLACK GRASSHOPPER...

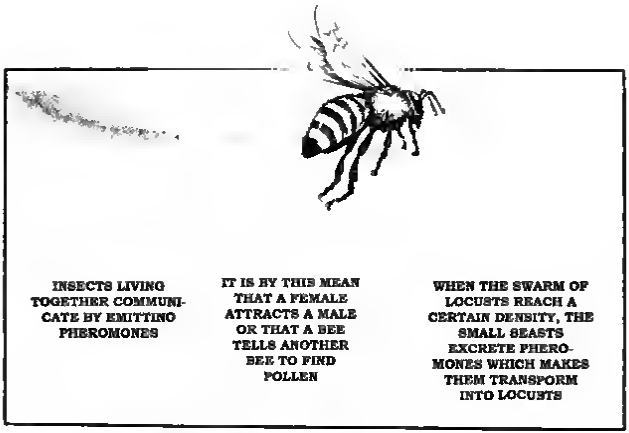

...THE LENGTHENED BODY, THE BLACK CARAPACE AND THE LARGE WINGS ADAPTED TO LONG FLIGHTS, THE LOCUST IS A TERRIBLE INSECT!


GREEN GRASSHOPPER
LOCUST

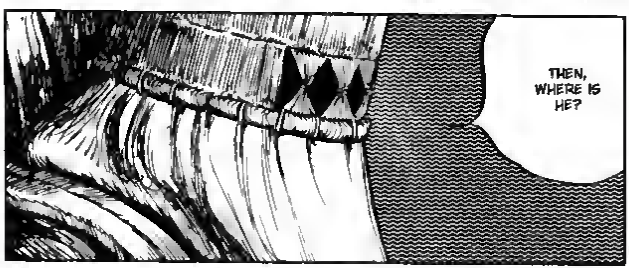

BUT THE LOCUSTS THAT GROW HERE, HOW WILL WE MAKE THEM LEAVE IN TCHO'S DIRECTION?
IF THEY'D DEVASTATE SHIN, IT WOULD BECOME A CATASTROPHE FOR US!


.....
PIONG

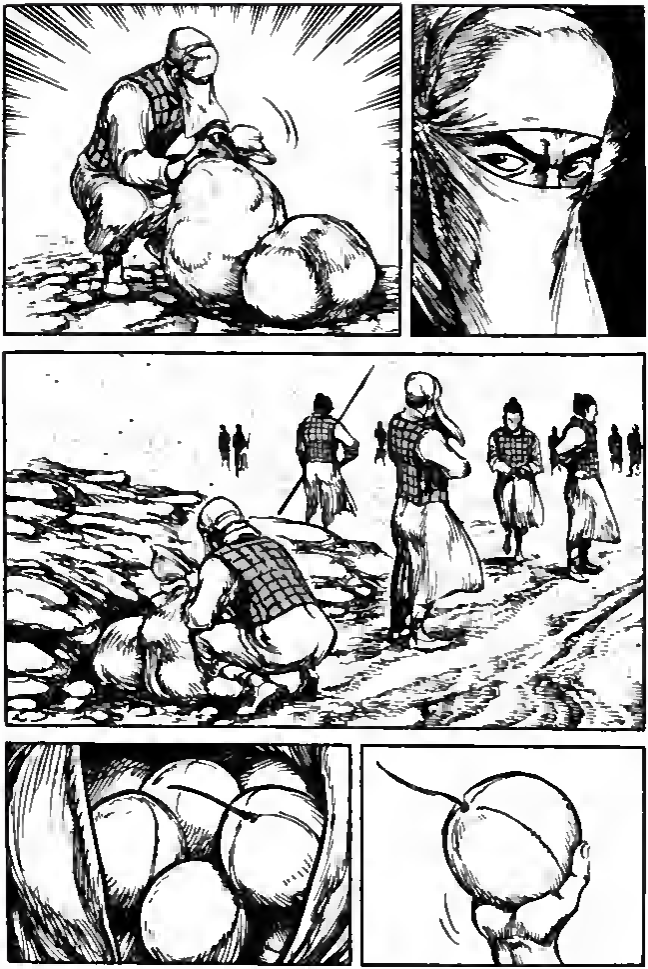

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TO SMEAR TCHO'S SIDE OF THE RIVER WITH A GREAT QUANTITY OF EXCREMENTS FROM BABY GRASSHOPPERS,
IT WILL CREATE AN ODOR WHICH ATTRACTS THEM


INSECTS LIVING TOGETHER COMMUNICATE BY EMITTING PHEROMONES
IT IS BY THIS MEAN THAT A FEMALE ATTRACTS A MALE OR THAT A BEE TELLS ANOTHER BEE TO FIND POLLEN
WHEN THE SWARM OF LOCUSTS REACH A CERTAIN DENSITY, THE SMALL BEASTS EXCRETE PHEROMONES WHICH MAKES THEM TRANSPORM INTO LOCUSTS

OUR ONLY CONCERN IS KAKURI
ACCORDING TO OUR SPIES WHO HAS INFILTRATED TCHO, HE'S NOWHERE TO BE FOUND. HE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN FOR SEVERAL DAYS


THEN, WHERE IS HE?

GRRR
DJJJ
DJJJ
DJJJ



NIMAE, TONIGHT WE'LL BE FORCED TO ACT

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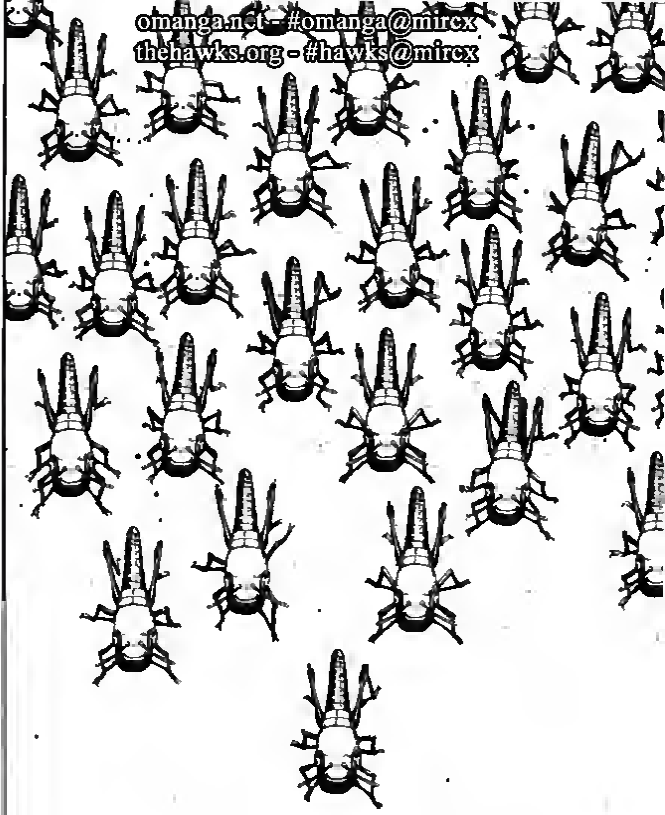
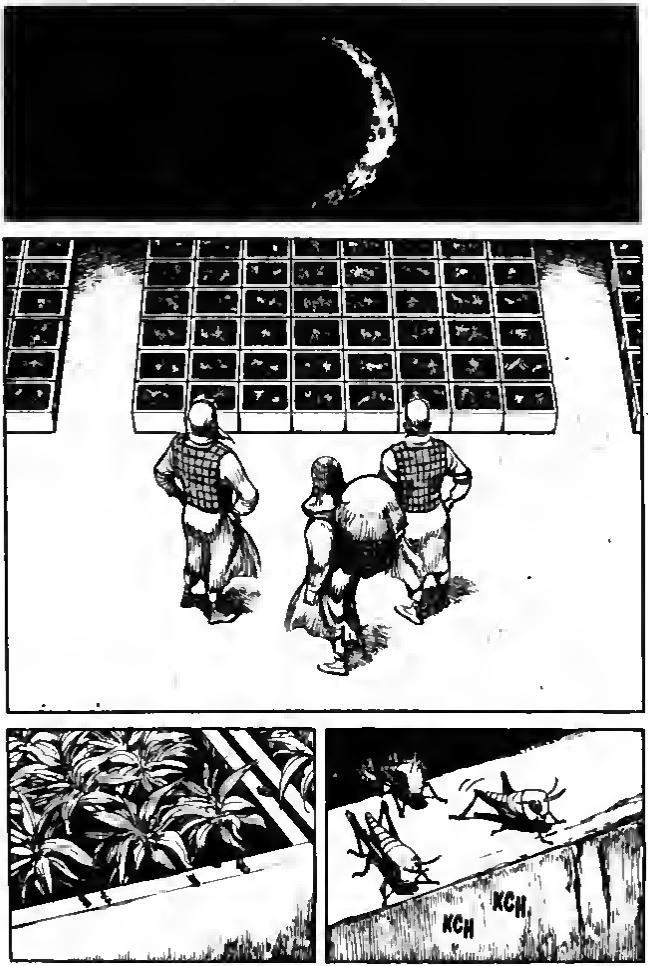
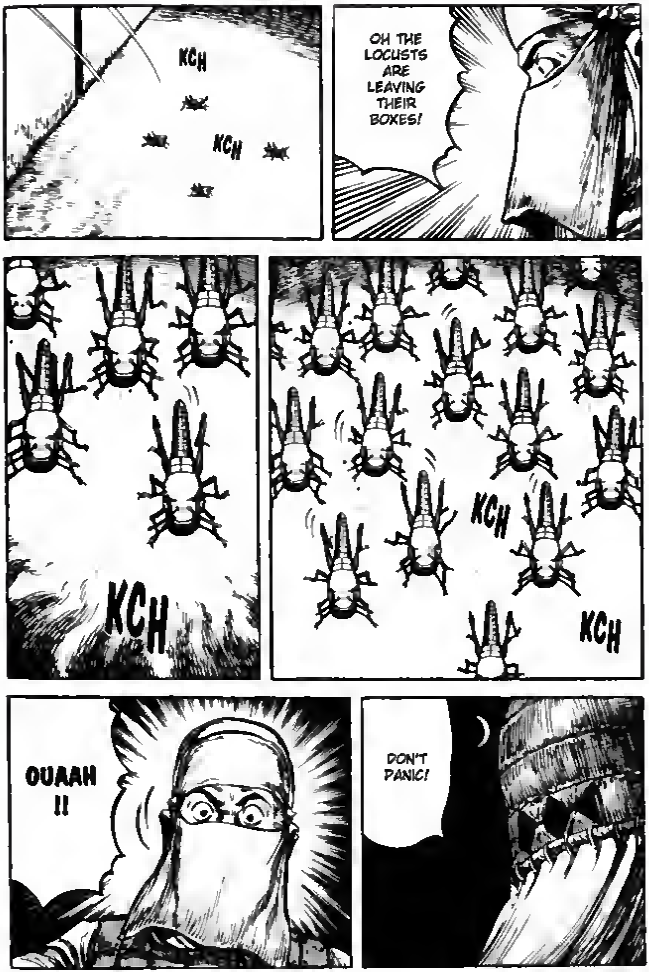


CHAPTER 08

DESTRUCTION

EDITORS: GATSU & ZYPH
SCANNER & TRANSLATOR: JON


KCH
KCH


KCH
KCH
OH THE LOCUSTS ARE LEAVING THEIR BOXES!
KCH
KCH
KCH
OUAAH !!
DON'T PANIC!

WHEN THE POPULATION REACHES A CERTAIN DENSITY, THE BABY GRASSHOPPERS WILL START TO WALK, ALL IN THE SAME DIREC-
KLICK
KLICK
KLICK
IT IS THEIR INITIATION CEREMONY. FROM NOW ON THEY ALL WILL MOVE AS IF THEY WERE ONE

THIS EVENING WE'LL COMMENCE THE ATTACK OF THE LOCUSTES!
THE WORK OF THE INSECT DIVISION WILL THEN BE COMPLETE
SETSUHEI PROMISED US FREEDOM IF WE SUCCEED!

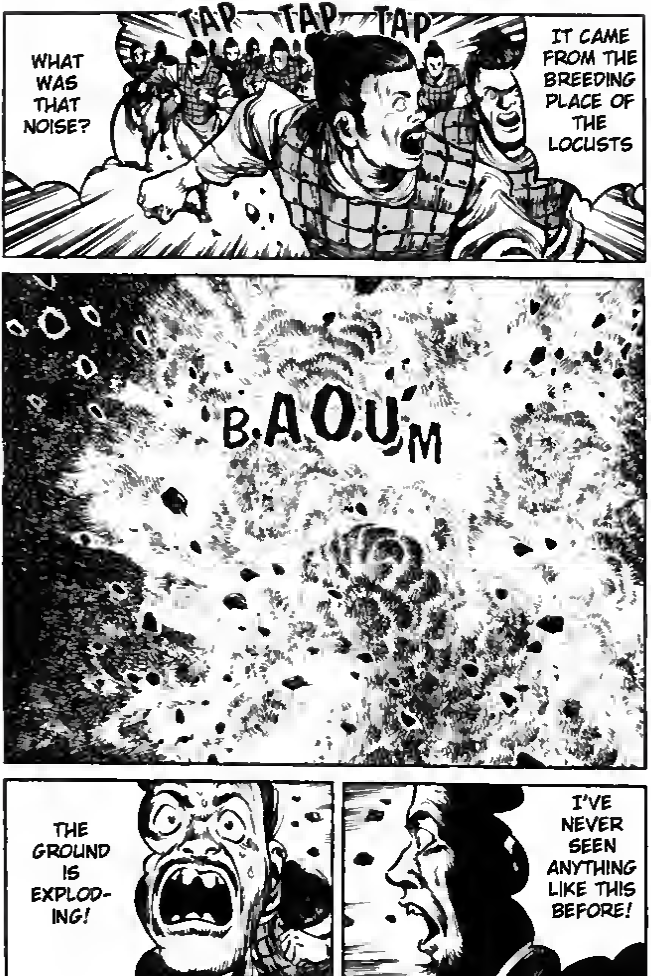
SSHSHSH
YES, BUT SETSUHEI, IS HE REALLY A MAN WHO KEEPS HIS PROMISES?
.....
DJJJ
A MAN OF BOKK REMAIN TRUE TO HIS WORDS UNTIL HIS DEATH, I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF ALL THIS WARFARE
AND IF SETSUHEI WON'T KEEP HIS PROMISE...

VLA ÖUM
OUWAA HAAAH !!

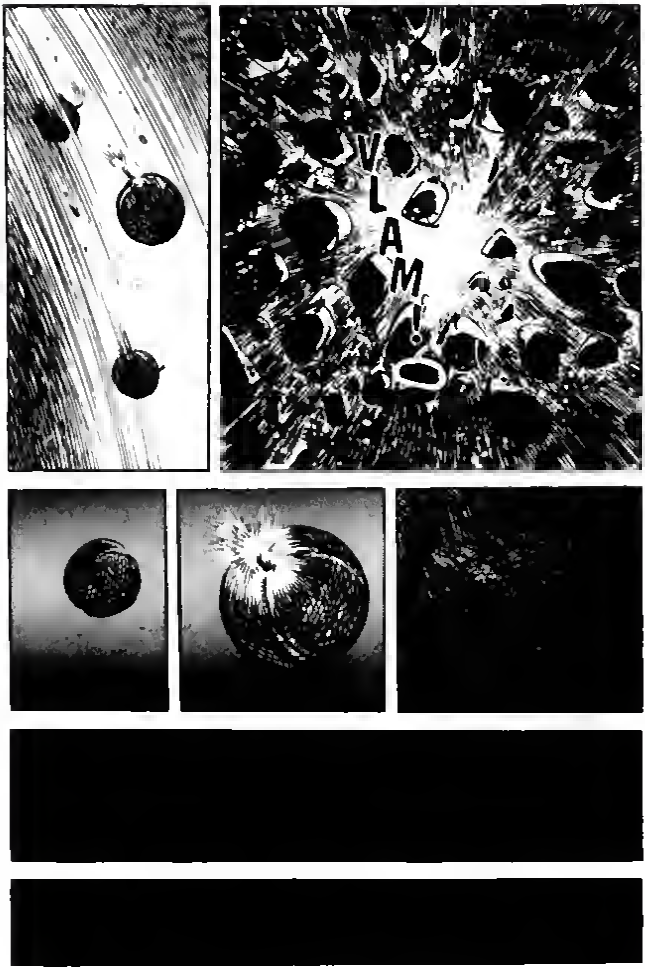
TCHK
BOUM
WAAH
!!

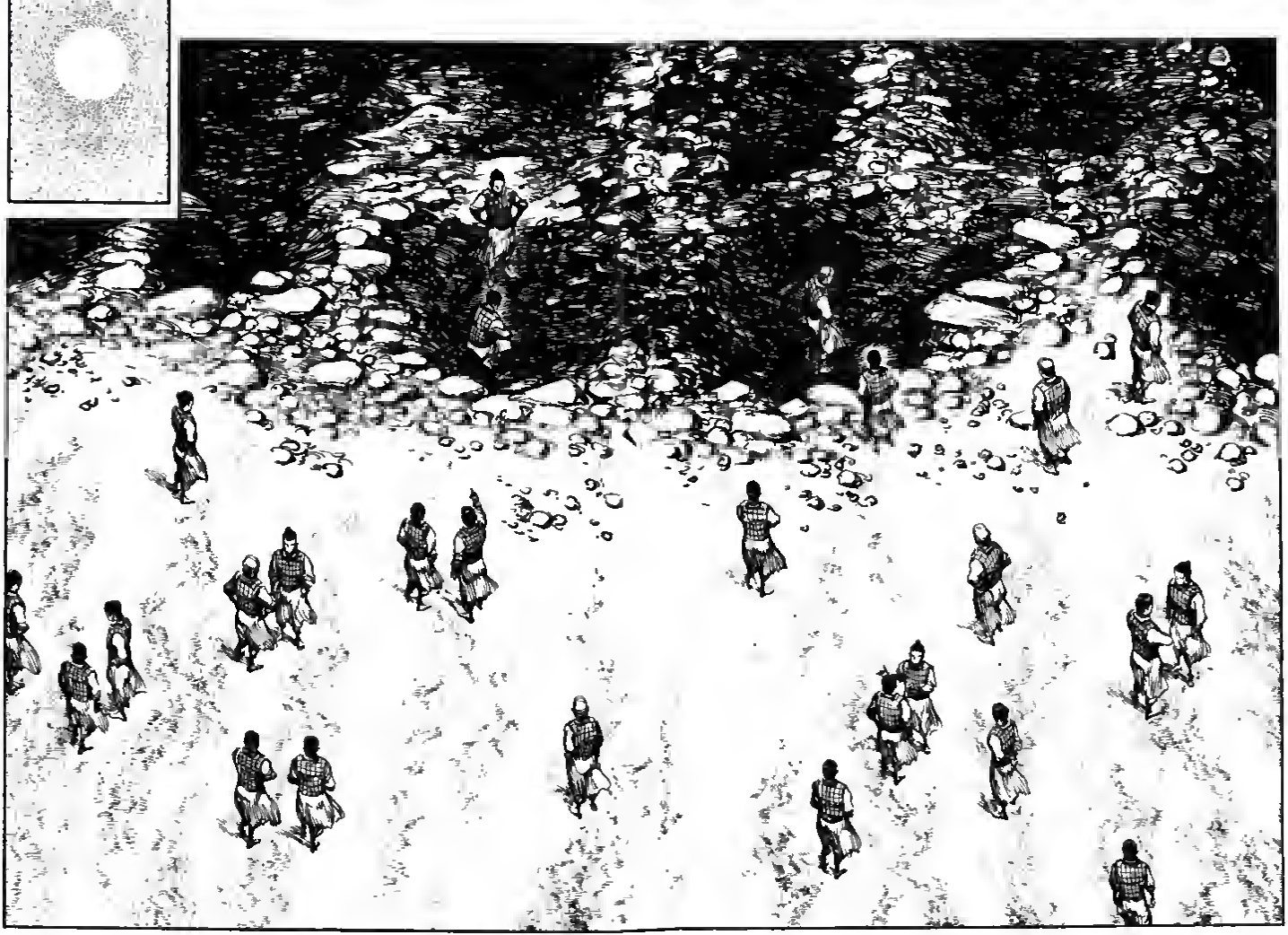
WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?
AND THE LOCUSTS ?
BOUM

OOH
!


TAP TAP TAP
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?
IT CAME FROM THE BREEDING PLACE OF THE LOCUSTS
B.A.O.U.M
THE GROUND IS EXPLOD-ING!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE!

NOO! MY LOCUSTS!
VLAM!
VLAM!
VLAM!
BUT WHY?!?
IS IT THE WORK OF KAKURI?
POUM
COULD THIS BE...


VLAM!



LET US RETURN TO SHIN, WE MUST WARN GENERAL WANIJA
WELL THEN, HOW WILL WE EXPLAIN IT TO HIM?
WE MUST TELL HIM WHAT WE SAW...
THE ONLY THING I'M SURE OF, IS THAT THERE'RE NO MORE LOCUSTS!

KCH
KCH
THAT GUY, WITHOUT HIS INSECTS HE IS NOTHING!
HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED, HE'LL PAY FOR IT
SETSUHEI WILL NEVER FORGIVE HIM
HE'LL LOSE HIS HEAD!

WELL DONE, YOU IDIOTS OF THE INSECT DIVISION!
YOU AND YOUR SILLY SCIENCE!
THIS IS NOT THE END...
I'VE STILL GOT A TRICK OR TWO UP MY SLEEVE!
DZAH

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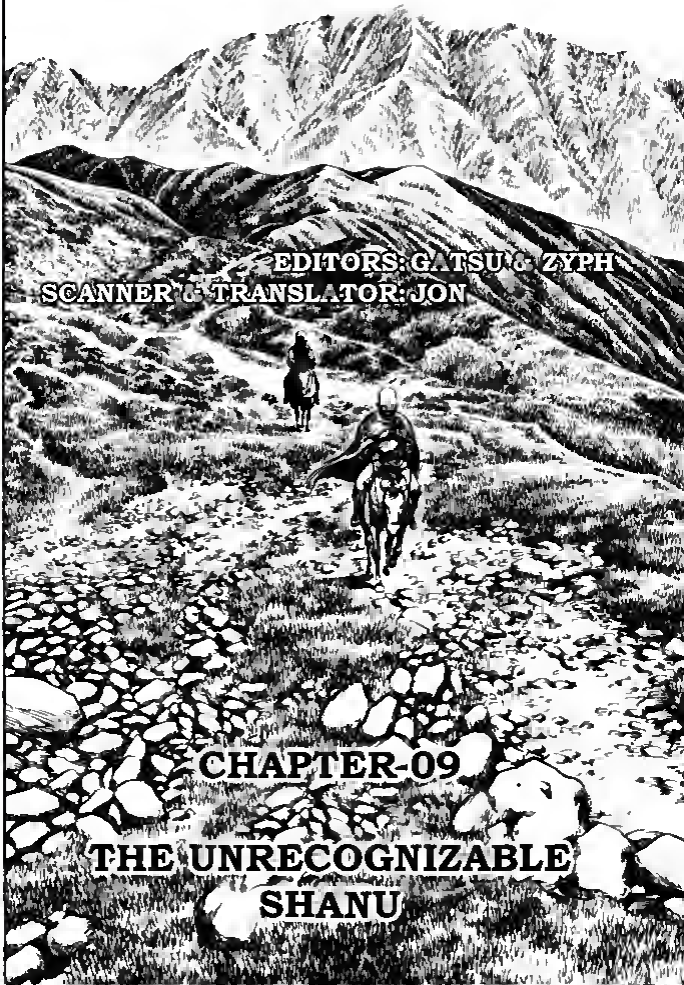


CHAPTER-09

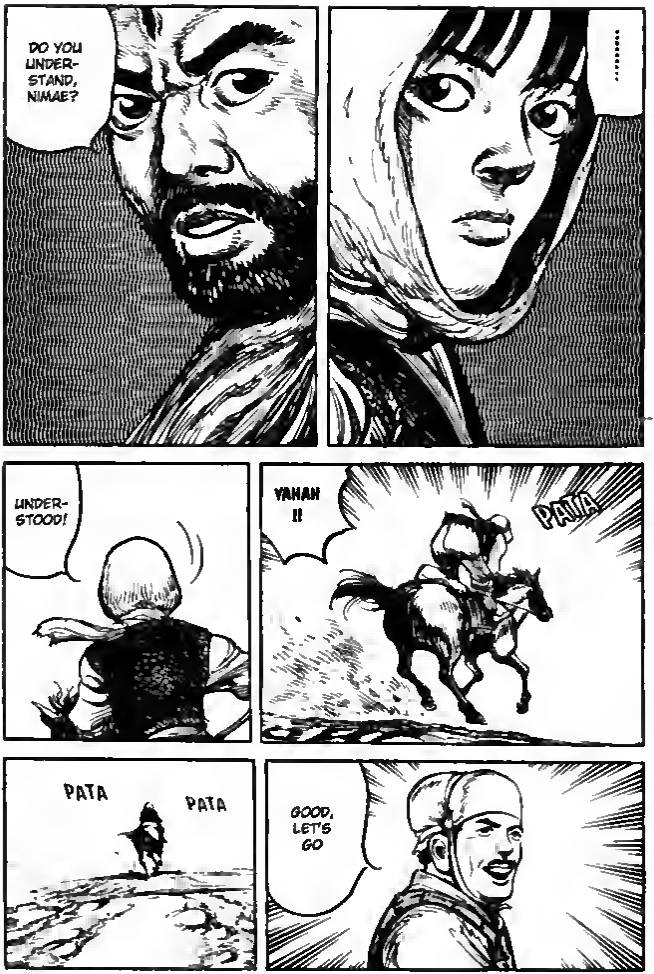
THE UNRECOGNIZABLE SHANU

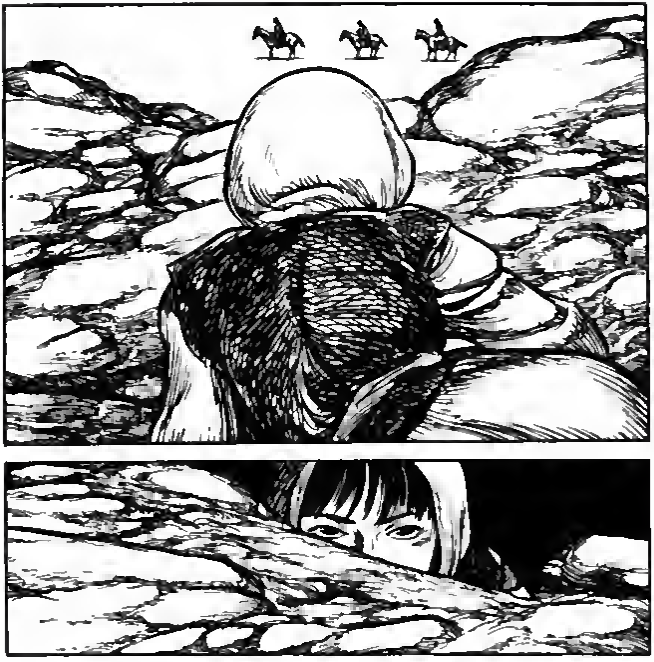
IN THE SURROUNDINGS OF TCHO S CAMP
KAKURI'S COMING!
I SUPPOSE THAT HE'LL RETURN TO THE BORDER,
WE SHALL ESCORT HIM FROM HERE, LEAVE TO TELL SHANU!
BE CAUTIOUS! KAKURI CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO KNOW ABOUT OUR MISSION!

CLIP
CLOP
CLIP
CLOP
BUT, WE'RE NOT HEADING FOR THE BORDER?
IF...
THEN, AREN'T WE GALLOPING
.....
IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE YOU DO NOT WANT TO GO BACK THERE...
!!
TAPATAP

KAKURI !!
TAPATA
WE FIGURED YOU WOULD RETURN SOON, WE CAME TO MEET UP WITH YOU!
CLIP
CLOP
ME, I'M GOING TO GO AND TELL SHANU!
CLOP
MISTER KAKURI, GLAD TO FIND YOU HEALTHY AND SAFE!

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO GREET ME, BUT I WORRY ABOUT THE WORK CONCERNING THE
DEFENSE OF SEI. I WAS PRECISELY SAYING TO NIMAE THAT I WANTED TO GO THERE DIRECTLY
?
NO, NO, GENERAL SHANU IS WAITING FOR YOU! RETURN QUICKLY TOWARDS THE BORDER!
IN THAT CASE...
NIMAE WILL GO CHECK ON THE WORK AND RETURN TO INFORM ME OF THE CURRENT STATUS


DO YOU UNDER-STAND, NIMAE?
.....
UNDER-STOOD!
YAHAH !!
PATA
PATA
PATA
GOOD, LET'S GO


GENERAL! KAKURI IS BACK!

THAT'S STRANGE, YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE THE MAN YOU WERE BEFORE...

THAT'S NORMAL, THREE DAYS AGO WE HEARD A MYSTERIOUS RUMBLE FROM SHIN'S CAMP DURING THE NIGHT.
THE FOLLOWING MORNING MY SPIES SAW LARGE HOLES IN THE GROUND AND THE BOXES WITH LOCUSTS HAD DISAPPEARED
IF WE HAD THIS NEW WEAPON, OUR COUNTRY WOULD NOT SUFFER FROM ANY MORE INVASIONS
TAH
SSHSHSH
SSHSH

YOUR TRUE AMBITION, IS TO CONQUER ALL OF CHINA, YOU WANT TO BECOME A NEW KING!

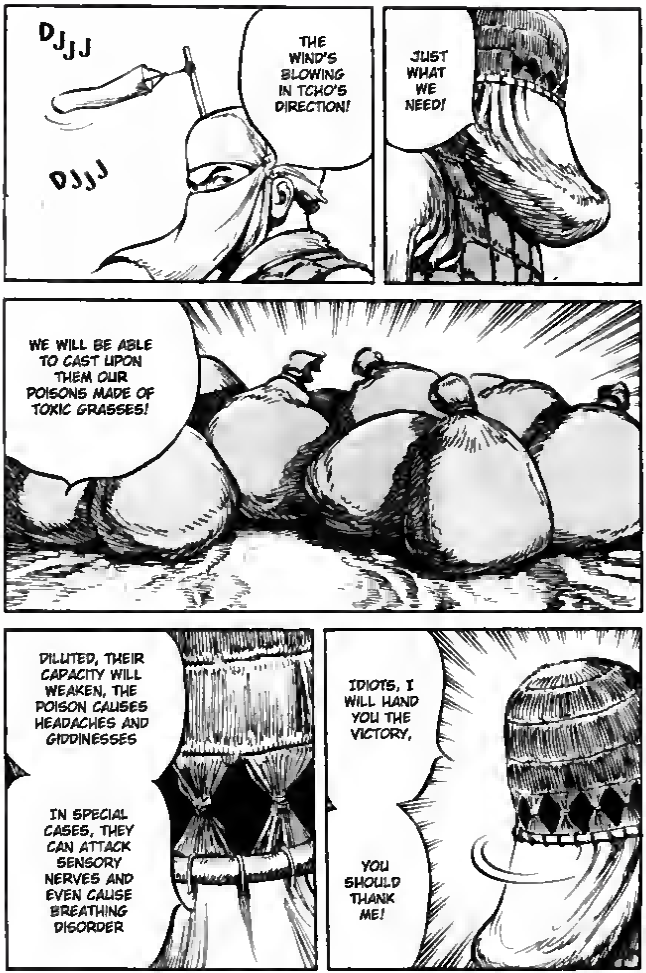
IN THE CAMP OF
SHIN'S ARMY

WHAT'S THAT SOLDIER FROM THE INSECT DIVISION DOING HERE? HE SHOULD RETURN TO SHAIJAN NOW THAT THE LOCUSTS HAS DISAPPEARED
THE NEW COMMANDER OF SHIN'S ARMY'S ELITE
NO, HE RETURNED WITH A NEW MISSION
IN SHAIJAN, THE PRINCIPAL ARMY IS ON THE DEPARTURE
ON THE BORDER, THE INSECT DIVISION WILL HELP US BUILD A BRIDGE CROSS THE RIVER
IT IS A DIRECT ORDER FROM GENERAL WANIJA
INCREDIBLE, THAT WANIJA STILL TRUSTS THESE PUPPETS
DOES HE REALLY BELIEVE THAT THESE MEN CAN DO ANYTHING BESIDES BREEDING THEIR INSECTS?
WANIJA HEARD ABOUT THE STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE LOCUSTS
HE THINKS THAT THE CAUSE IS NOT A NATURAL PHENOMENON, BUT A NEW WEAPON THAT TCHO'S ARMY'S RECEIVED
DOES THAT IDIOT REALLY THINK THAT MAN CAN HAVE SUCH POWER?

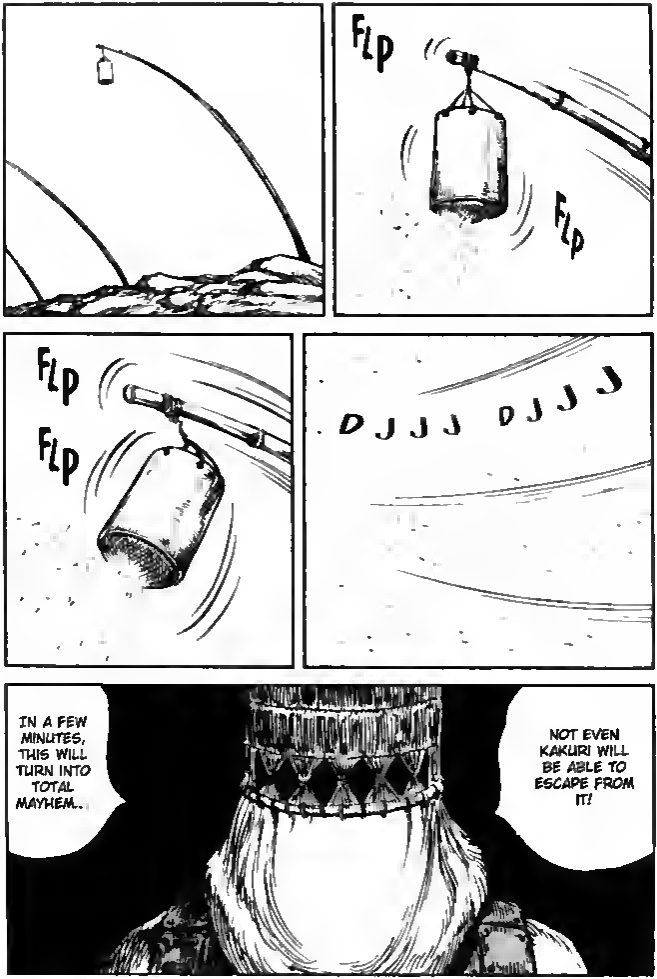
GENERAL WANIJA THINKS THAT KAKURI MAY BE THE ONE BEHIND THIS INCIDENT
IN ANY CASE, HE WANTS US TO CAPTURE KAKURI ALIVE!

MY RANK OF GENERAL IS IMPRESSIVE, BUT IN REALITY NOT THAT SATISFYING
THE ARMY OF TCHO GREW TOO MUCH. WE WASTE OUR TIME IN FIGHTS BETWEEN RIVAL FACTIONS
TODAY, AS GENERAL, I HAVE NOTHING MORE THAN A TITLE

AND ON SHIN S SIDE OF THE RIVER


DJJJ
DJJJ
THE WIND'S BLOWING IN TCHO'S DIRECTION!
JUST WHAT WE NEED!
WE WILL BE ABLE TO CAST UPON THEM OUR POISONS MADE OF TOXIC GRASSES!
DILUTED, THEIR CAPACITY WILL WEAKEN, THE POISON CAUSES HEADACHES AND GIDDINESSES
IN SPECIAL CASES, THEY CAN ATTACK SENSORY NERVES AND EVEN CAUSE BREATHING DISORDER
IDIOTS, I WILL HAND YOU THE VICTORY,
YOU SHOULD THANK ME!

BASTARD !
DZZK
THE POISON CAN ENTER YOU THROUGH THE MOUTH AND THE NOSE, BUT EVEN THROUGH THE PORES OF YOUR SKIN
DZZK
COVER YOUR WHOLE BODY!
THE INSECT DIVISION WAS ORIGI-NALLY CALLED THE AGRICUL-TURE DIVISION
BUT WHY DO THEY KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT POISONS?
PERHAPS THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE LOCUSTS DOESN'T MATTER TO THEM...


FLP
FLP
FLP
FLP
DJJJ DJJJ
IN A FEW MINUTES, THIS WILL TURN INTO TOTAL MAYHEM..
NOT EVEN KAKURI WILL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM IT!

GRRR
SSHHHHH
DJJJAH

SHSHSH
TALK!!

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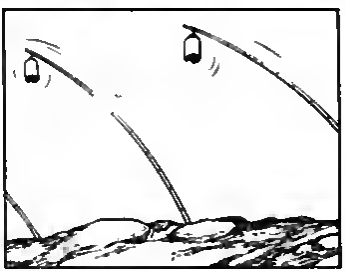
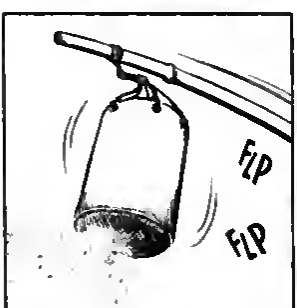
CHAPTER 10

THE BORDER CRACKS

EDITORS: GATSU & ZYPH
SCANNER & TRANSLATOR: JON

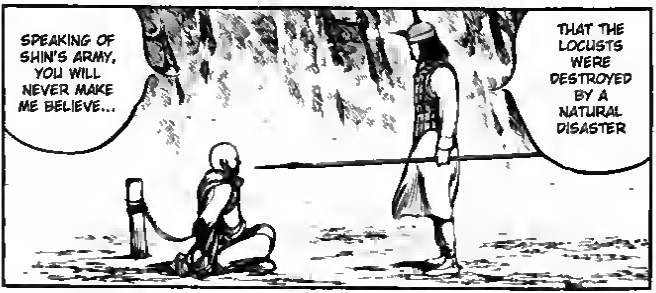
WHAT ARE THEY DOING OVER THERE AT SHIN'S SIDE?



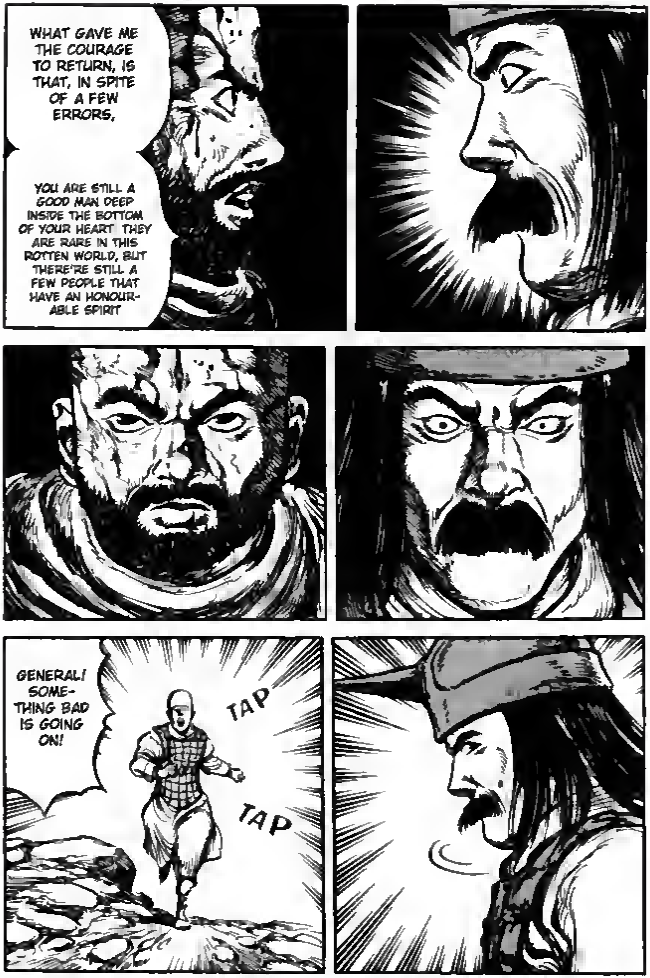

FLP
FLP

THE WIND IS PERFECT, NEITHER TOO EXTREME NOR TOO WEAK!
THE POISON WILL FLOAT SLOWLY ACROSS THE CAMP OF TCHO
THE SOLDIERS WILL BREATHE IN A GOOD AMOUNT OF IT
AT MY COMMAND, YOU WILL CROSS THE RIVER AND STORM TCHO'S CAMP!
HEAD OF THE ELITE

IN TCHO'S CAMP

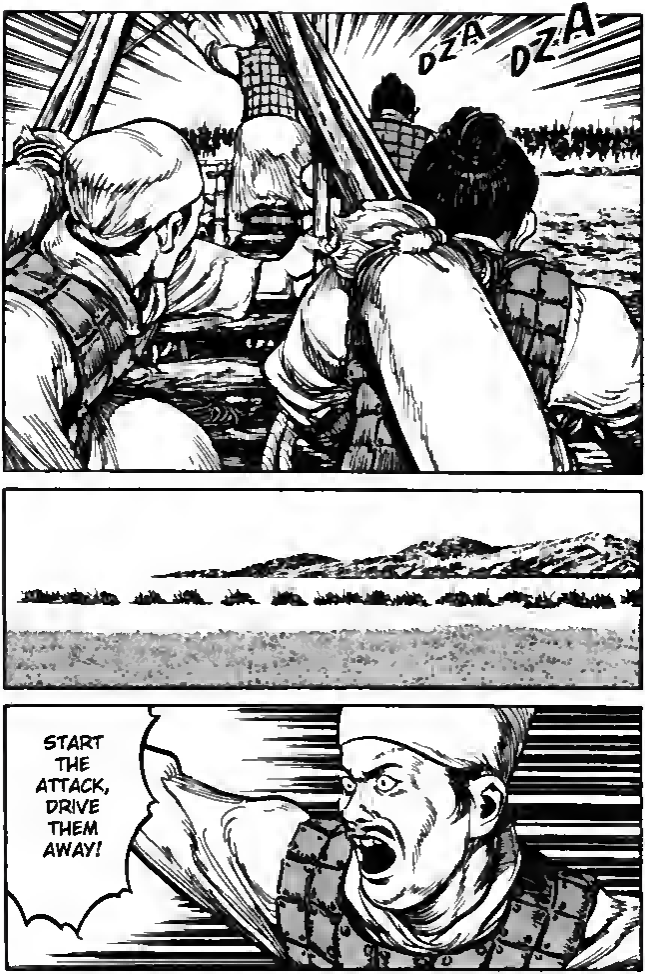


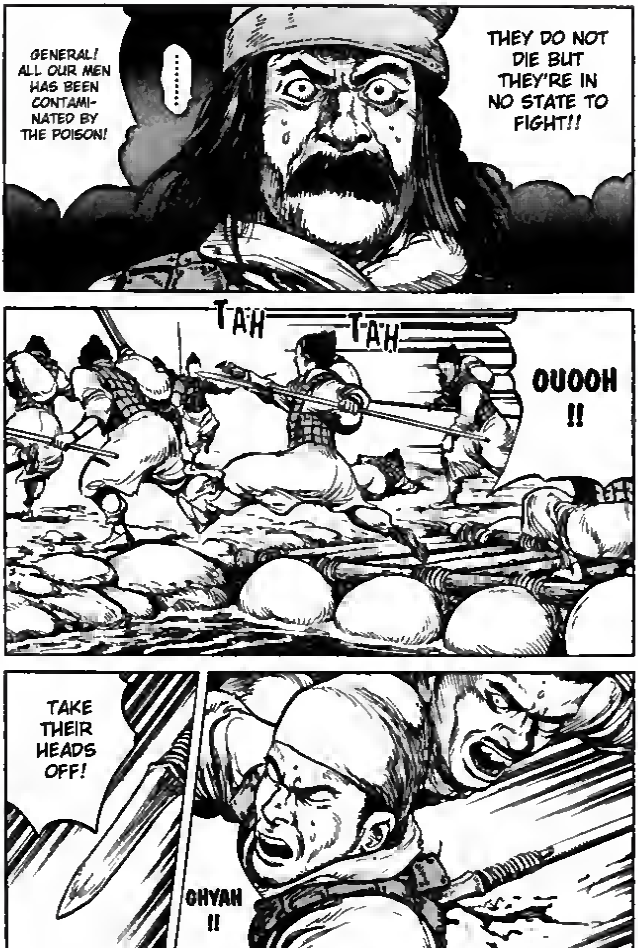
I AM SURE THAT IN THIS MOMENT THEY'RE SEARCHING EVERYWHER FOR YOU
I WOULD PREFER TO KILL YOU RATHER THAN LET THE ENEMIES GET YOU
BUT I MUST ASK YOU, WHY?
AFTER SEEING ME, YOU NOTICED THAT MY FACE HAD CHANGED
YOU THUS KNEW THAT I WOULD MAKE YOU MY PRISONER, BUT STILL YOU CAME, WHY?


WHAT GAVE ME THE COURAGE TO RETURN, IS THAT, IN SPITE OF A FEW ERRORS,
YOU ARE STILL A GOOD MAN DEEP INSIDE THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART. THEY ARE RARE IN THIS ROTTEN WORLD, BUT THERE'RE STILL A FEW PEOPLE THAT HAVE AN HONOURABLE SPIRIT
GENERAL! SOMETHING BAD IS GOING ON!
TAP
TAP

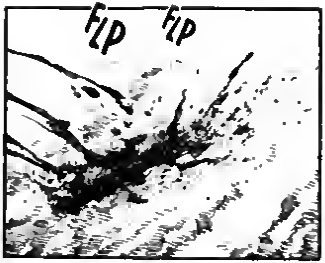
AN ODD NAUSEA HAS SPREAD ALL OVER THE CAMP!
WHAT?
OUOUH
AAH
BLERK

WHAT'S THE SYMP-TOMS?
IT'S THE SAME FOR EVERYONE, SUDDEN GIDDINESS AND NAUSEA!
AAH
.....
SHOW ME YOUR EYES
!!!
DILATED PUPILS...
DAMN! SHIN HAS POISONED US!
GENERAL, SHIN'S ARMY'S CROSSING THE RIVER!!


DZA
DZA
START THE ATTACK, DRIVE THEM AWAY!


GENERAL! ALL OUR MEN HAS BEEN CONTAMI-NATED BY THE POISON!
.....
THEY DO NOT DIE BUT THEY'RE IN NO STATE TO FIGHT!!
TA'H
TA'H
OUOOH !!
TAKE THEIR HEADS OFF!
GHYAH !!

WHERE IS KAKURI ??
WE NEED HIM ALIVE!
WHAT'S THAT... THEY SEEK KAKURI,
I WAS RIGHT.. OH!
DZAH!
HUH !?



THE EFFECTS OF THE POISON AFFLICTED THE MEN PRONE TO THE ALLERGIES VERY HARSHLY. THEY SUFFERED FROM HEMORRHAGES AND VOMITING. IN EXTREME CASES, THEY DIED

DEATH TO TCHO, KILL THEM ALL!
DZA DZA DZA DZA
!!

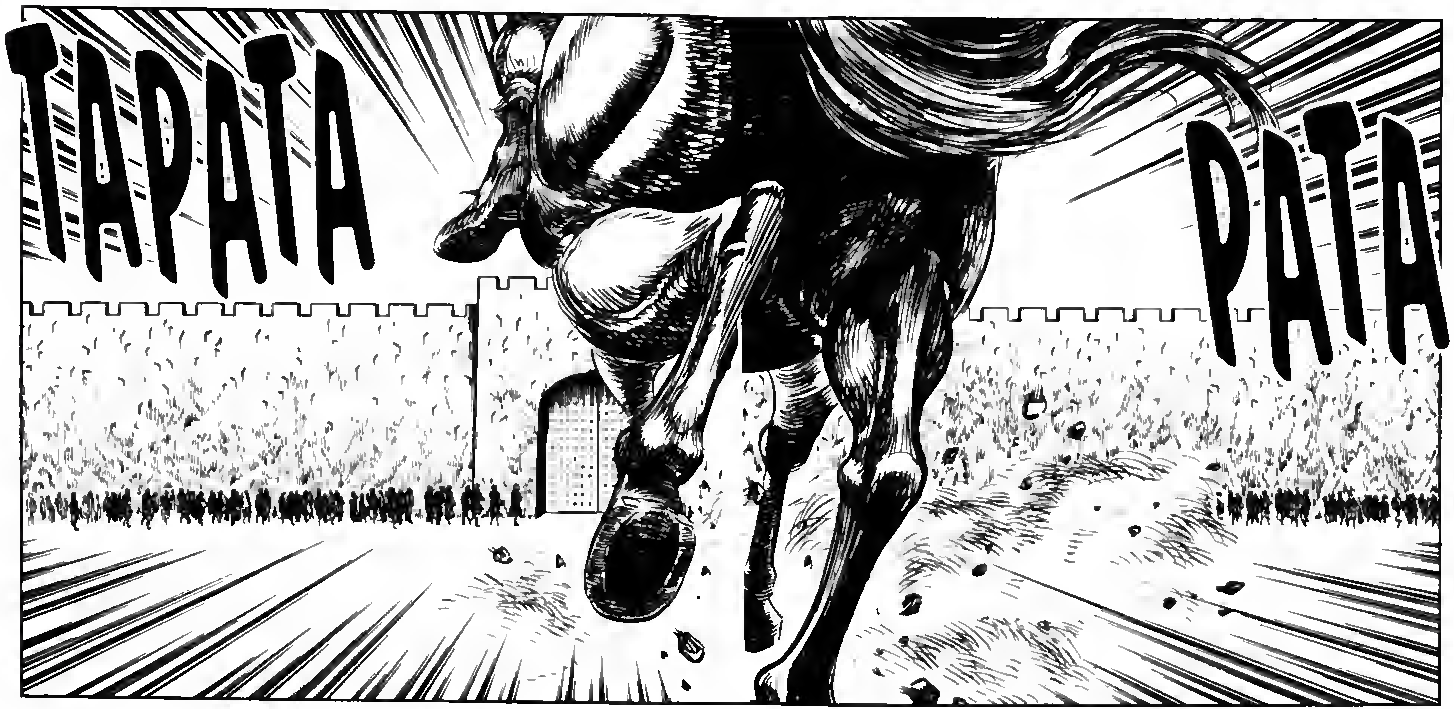
DJJJ
TCH'K
PLEASE, SAVE SE!
GRRR
.....

DZAH
DZA
DZA
FLOP
GRR
POISON?
...
I CAN
BARELY
MOVE...
GRRR
KAKURI
!!
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
DAMN! KAKURI IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND .. HE HAS DISAP-PEARED!
TAPATAP

TAPATA
TAPATA

WE MUST GO TO SEI, QUICKLY!
I WAS SURE THAT YOU WOULD COME...


TAPATA
PATA

HUH?
NIMAE, AND SHE'S GOT KAKURI WITH HER!
NIMAE, WE MISSED YOU!
PATA PATA
THE BORDER HAS BEEN BREACHED!
THE ARMY OF SHIN WILL ATTACK US!
TAPATAP
TAP

AND THE BORDER ...?
THE ARMY OF SHIN WILL ATTACK US!
WHERE'S GENERAL SHANU?
WE'RE DONE FOR!
OUAAH! THEY'RE HERE, THEY'RE COMING!

KAKURI, WHAT HAP-PENED? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD!
HE WAS POISONED!
POISON? ARE YOU GOING TO DIE?
IDIOT !
ME, I MADE IT BACK, BUT SHANU DIED AND THE MEN ARE DEMORALIZED
THE BORDER WAS BREACHED, BUT BEFORE THEY CAN PASS THE RIVER, THEY NEED TO BUILD A BRIDGE ACROSS IT. THAT WILL TAKE THEM A FEW DAYS, WE MUST USE THIS TIME TO GAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF THE INHABITANTS!